

Myosotis pygmaea

COMMON NAME

Pygmy forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

Myosotis ramificata G.Simpson; *Myosotis pygmaea* Colenso var. *pygmaea*

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis pygmaea Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOPYG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Serious Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Ground hugging rosette herb in 1cm to several cm clumps. Lateral branched few to many, prostrate, up to 9cm long. Leaves oval to spoon-shaped; upper surface hairy except towards base, lower surface almost hairless. Leaf hairs stiff and spreading. Flowers white to cream, 3mm diameter.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island south from the Coromandel Peninsula (a small islet near Coromandel Harbour), including Hawke's Bay, Castlepoint, South Taranaki Coast and near Cape Palliser. South Island, south from Nelson, mainly east of main divide.

HABITAT

Open coastal habitats to upland grassland, herbfield, open rocky, sandy places and stream sides. Sea level to 1200m altitude.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis brevis. *Myosotis pygmaea* has larger flowers than *Myosotis brevis*.

FLOWERING

(August-) September to December (however sporadic flowering may occur throughout the year)



Long Point, Catlins. Photographer: John Barkla



Close up. Photographer: Shannel Courtney

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

FRUITING

September to January (however fruits may be found throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. However, plants are short-lived and prone to fungal diseases in humid climates.

THREATS

The main threat throughout this species range is loss of habitat, caused by land development, weed invasion and coastal erosion.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

pygmaea: Tiny

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The autonym *Myosotis pygmaea* var. *pygmaea* became unnecessary when de Lange & Barkla elevated the other varieties of *M. pygmaea* to species rank in de Lange et al. (2010).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003). For more information see Allan (1961) and de Lange et al. (2010)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotis pygmaea* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-pygmaea/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-pygmaea/>