

Myosotis tenericaulis

SYNONYMS

Myosotis tenuis G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis tenericaulis Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOTEN

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island apparently confined to the north-western Ruahine Range. In the South Island locally distributed from Nelson to Southland though apparently absent from Westland, Marlborough and Canterbury. Also on Stewart island. This species is easily overlooked.

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine (0-1400 m a.s.l.). Upper montane to alpine in the North Island, otherwise as stated. Usually on the margins of slow flowing streams, in muddy ground, on the margins of small, ephemeral pools, in wet ground at the bases of tall tussocks, in shaded sites within forests overlying poorly drained alluvium, and in alpine flushes, seepages and cushion bogs.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent, green or bronze, sprawling to weakly ascending, slender, perennial herb forming roughly circular to asymmetrical diffuse patches up to 200 mm diameter. Adventitious roots frequently produced along weakly ascending partially buried or creeping stem, or adventitious roots absent. Lateral branches 1-10 (or more), weak and somewhat flaccid, occasionally producing new rosettes where touching the ground, some branching again and on occasion flowering. Rosette-leaves obvious, or not very obvious due to creeping stem, these 6-12 x 3-6 mm, elliptic to broadly oval, gradually narrowing to slender petioles up to 40 mm long; hairs of lamina short, closely appressed, mostly evenly though sparsely covering upper surface, undersides glabrescent. Flowering branches 20-400 mm long, internodes distinctly longer than leaves; petioles becoming progressively shorter in upper cauline leaves; bracts sub- to sessile; other similar in shape and indument to rosette and basal stem leaves. Inflorescences cymose; cymes elongated, simple or branched, several-flowered, internodes long, flowers solitary, bract opposed or noticeably below bract. Pedicels 1-10 mm long in fruit. Calyx 1.5-3.5(-4) mm, lobes > 1/2 calyx length, narrow, acute, hairs short, appressed, evenly though sparsely distributed. Corolla 3-4 mm diameter, white sometimes with a yellow throat; tube 2 mm long, cylindric; lobes 1 x 1 mm, rounded; filaments almost wanting, anthers < 1 mm long, yellow, included within tube; style up to 4 mm long, stigma capitate. Nutlets projecting from short, widely open calyx, 1.2-1.6 x 0.8-0.9 mm, ovate-elliptic to elliptic, apex obtuse, base rounded margins slightly winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by corolla up to 4 mm diameter, more or less concave, narrow lobes; anthers (< 1 mm long) which are included within or just protrude from the floral tube, and very short, scarcely exerted stigma. The calyces are lobed to about half their length, with the lobes spreading and erect in fruit. In this species the calyx hairs are sparse, but evenly distributed, distinctly spreading, and of uniform length, while the indument of the petioles, internodes and pedicels is similar but much longer. Frequently confused with *M. spathulata*, which is usually a larger plant whose leaf base rapidly narrows to the petiole, bracts (at least lower ones) and leaves are often orbicular with erect hairs on the undersurfaces, and the hairs on the calyx and stems are distinctly erect and sometimes more or less hooked. Furthermore the stigma is clavate rather than capitate. The amount of stigma projection is not a good character for separating these two distinct species.

FLOWERING

November - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult as tends to be short-lived and does not self-sow very well. Prone to fungal diseases and dislikes humidity. An attractive pot plant for an alpine house.

THREATS

An apparently naturally uncommon, biological sparse species. It may be threatened in some parts of its range through competition from weeds. Clarification of its conservation status is needed.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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