

# Myosotis traversii subsp. cantabrica

## COMMON NAMES

Travers' forget-me-not

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted perennial herb dying back to rootstock in winter. Rosettes one or several, leaves spatulate, 20-70 × 4-9 mm, petiole broad and ill-defined; leaves hairy, those of adaxial surface notably longer than abaxial, curved and not obscuring epidermis; those of the abaxial surface sparser, shorted and finer, mostly retrorse. Lateral branches ascending or erect, up to 150 mm long, internodes usually < leaves. Upper stem-leaves 12-20 mm long, oblong with rounded tips, hairs crowded on both surfaces, those of the abaxial surface longer, stouter and strongly hooked. Cyme compound, usually ebracteate, 8-flowered, capitate (even in fruit), carried 10-20 mm above leaves in fruit; internodes and pedicels very short. Calyx up to 5 mm long in flower, lobes cut to half calyx length, subacute; short appressed hairs covering whole surface closely, long spreading coarse hairs scattered and conspicuously hooked. Corolla white, c.4 mm diameter, tube c.5 mm long, cylindric, lobes c.1.5 × 1.3 mm, rounded; filaments very short, anthers c.1.2 mm long, with tips projecting above well-developed scales; style usually much > calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet 1.4-2.3 × 0.8-1.3 mm, ovate or ovate-elliptic, black.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Myosotis traversii* subsp. *cantabrica* differs from *M. traversii* subsp. *traversii* by the presence of numerous hooked (uncinate hairs) on the leaf undersurface.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island. East of the main divide from mid-Canterbury southwards.

## HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. In scree and on rock up to 2100 m.

## GENUS

*Myosotis*

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis traversii* subsp. *cantabrica* (L.B.Moore) Meudt



East Ahuriri. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



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## SYNONYMS

*Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica* (L.B.Moore) Meudt.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November - February

## FRUITING

February - March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Likely to be difficult. Probably best grown in an alpine house or rock garden

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**traversii:** Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

## NVS CODE

MYOTVC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 48$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPT, NR, NS, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## ATTRIBUTION

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

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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-traversii-subsp-cantabrica/> (Date website was queried)

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-traversii-subsp-cantabrica/>

**PDF DATE**

25 May 2026