

Myosotis traversii subsp. traversii

COMMON NAMES

Travers forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Evaluated

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

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; hairs copious on both surfaces, those on abaxial surface shorter, finer, sparser and distinctly retrorse, few (if any) hooked. Lateral branches ascending or erect, up to 200 mm long, internodes usually < leaves. Upper stem-leaves 12-20 mm long, oblong with rounded tips, hairs not hooked. Cyme compound, usually ebracteate, 8-12-flowered, distinctly capitate in flower and fruit, carried 10-20 mm above leaves in fruit; internodes and pedicels very short. Calyx up to 5 mm long in flowers, cut to half calyx length, subacute; short appressed hairs covering whole surface closely, associated with conspicuous, sparser long spreading coarse, hooked hairs. Corolla lemon-yellow to 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 oblong, c.2.0-3.0 × 1.0-1.6 mm, ovate to ovate-elliptic.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis traversii is distinguished from all other indigenous *myosoti* by the erect ebracteate cymose inflorescences, and calyx-hairs which are of two distinct types, (i) short, fine, straight and closely appressed, and (ii) long, coarse, spreading and usually hooked. These attributes and its preference for scree and rock habitats make it a well marked species. Of the two recognised subspecies, *M. traversii* subsp. *traversii* is the more northerly and differs from subsp. *cantabrica* by the absence of hooked (uncinate) hairs on the under-surface of the stem-leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Mountains of Nelson, Marlborough, and North Canterbury (mostly east of the main divide).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. In active to semi-stable scree and shingly places

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae



Jangai Pass, Rachael Range. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



Island Saddle. January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Myosotis traversii Hook.f. subsp. *traversii*

SYNONYMS

Myosotis cockayniana Petrie; *Myosotis traversii* var. *cockayniana* (Petrie) Cheeseman

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December - March

FRUITING

February - April

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

MYOTVT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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