

Myosotis ultramafica

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DISTRIBUTION

New Zealand. South Island: Southland (West Dome, Bald Hill, Livingstone Mountains and Black Ridge).

THREATS

Myosotis ultramafica was listed as At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, Range Restricted, Species by de Lange et al. (2013; as *M. aff. lyallii* (Mossburn, CHR 320240); *Myosotis* (a) (CHR 320240; Mossburn). It was not included in the 2017 threat assessment of de Lange et al. (2018) because it was considered synonymous with *M. lyallii* subsp. *elderi* on the basis of the results from Meudt and Prebble (2018). In the recent description of this species it was recommended the status Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable B(1) with the qualifiers 'Data Poor Trend' (DPT) and 'Range Restricted' (RR). Because EOO is very low (estimated to be ~32 km²) and this species is restricted to ultramafic substrates from only four nearby locations, all in close proximity, RR is recommended as a qualifier (Meudt & Prebble, 2022).

It is estimated that there are in excess of 1000 plants on each of Bald Hill and West Dome (i.e. several to many hundred plants), whereas Black Ridge has a population of a few hundred plants and Livingstone Mountains has a population estimated at less than 100 plants (B. Rance, pers. comm.). However, the qualifier DPT is relevant because it is currently unknown how the population sizes change over time. The major threats to the ultramafic habitat of *M. ultramafica* are fire and weeds (particularly gorse, broom and wilding conifers) (B. Rance, pers. comm., 2021).

More surveys are needed of this species to allow determination of the extent of its geographic range, and collection of additional specimens (particularly of flowering individuals).

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Meudt, Prebble & Rance

SYNONYMS

Previously specimens of *Myosotis ultramafica* have been annotated with the tag names *Myosotis* sp. "West Dome", *M. aff. lyallii* or *M. sp.* "Mossburn".

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Plants growing on open ultramafic rock field on ridge, Southland Coal Hill. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 13/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Plants growing on open ultramafic rock field on ridge, Southland Coal Hill. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 13/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Flowering December–February, fruiting January–February.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

ultramafica: The epithet ultramafica comes from the Latin word 'ultra', meaning 'beyond', and the composite word 'mafic', which was coined for modal ferromagnesian minerals.

NVS CODE

MYOut

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

Unknown

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Evaluated

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange P. J., Rolfe J. R., Champion P. D., Courtney S. P., Heenan P. B., Barkla J. W., Cameron E. K., Norton D. A., Hitchmough R. A. 2013. Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2012. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 3, 1–70.
- de Lange P. J., Rolfe J. R., Barkla J. W., Courtney S. P., Champion P. D., Perrie L. R., Beadel S.M., Ford K. A., Breitwieser I., Schönberger I., Hindmarsh Walls R., Heenan P. B., Ladley K 2018. *Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017*. (Department of Conservation: Wellington, New Zealand).
- Meudt H. M., Prebble J. M. 2018. Species limits and taxonomic revision of the bracteate–prostrate group of southern hemisphere forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*, Boraginaceae), including description of three new species endemic to New Zealand. *Australian Systematic Botany* 31, 48–105. doi:10.1071/SB17045
- Meudt, H. M., & Prebble, J. M. 2022. [Morphological analyses support recognition of three new threatened species of bracteate–prostrate *Myosotis* \(Boraginaceae\) endemic to the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand](#). *Australian Systematic Botany*, 35(5), 364-394.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (23 March 2023).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

07 June 2026