

Ourisia remotifolia

COMMON NAME

mountain foxglove

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1984)

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Ourisia remotifolia Arroyo

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

OURREM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Mt Cook National Park, Westland National Park and Fiordland National Park

HABITAT

Alpine (1000–2200 m a.s.l.). Locally common in southerly or southwesterly facing talus slopes, bluffs, sheltered snow hollows; in rock crevices or on bare rock. Rarely in damp seepages within alpine herbfield.



Mt Burns. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ourisia remotifolia. Photographer: Heidi Meudt, Licence: All rights reserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb 39-102 mm tall with ascending to erect inflorescences and repent leaves; stems 2.0-3.5 mm diameter; internodes 2.1-13.3 mm long, glabrous or pilose, hairs long, eglandular. leaves opposite, sometimes tightly tufted near apex of stem (never rosulate); petiole 2.6-18.5 x 0.9-4.8 mm, pilose, glandular hairs isolated, long to very long, glandular hairs densely distributed toward margin, long to very long; lamina 6.9-24.0 x 6.9-20.3 mm, broadly to very broadly ovate, apex rounded, base cuneate, sometimes subtruncate, margin crenate, teeth mostly with hydathodes, upper surface pilose or villous, hairs mostly eglandular, long to very long, undersides glabrous or pilose, vestiture of mixed glandular and eglandular hairs, especially along prominent veins, often punctate. Inflorescence racemose, 42-108 mm long, bracteate, 1-6-flowered; peduncle 1.1-1.7 mm diameter, densely glandular pilose. Floral bracts 9.5-17.6 x 5.3-9.1 mm, reducing in size toward inflorescence apex, sessile, parallel to peduncle or slightly spreading, narrowly obovate, oblanceolate, margin crenate bearing 3-5 teeth in distal portion, glabrous or glandular/eglandular pilose. Flowers 12.2-16.7 x 11.0-14.7 mm; pedicel 6.7-21.0 mm long, densely glandular pilose. Calyx 5.7-7.7 x 4.3-8.0 mm, irregular, externally glandular/eglandular pilose or villous, internally glabrescent, margin not ciliate; anterior calyx lobes 5.0-6.8 x 1.5-2.4 mm, posterior calyx lobes 1.2-4.2 x 1.2-2.2 mm, 3 posterior calyx lobes divided 1/4-1/2 of calyx length, 2 anterior lobes divided to near base, lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, apex rounded or acute, mucronate or slightly emarginate, upper surface prominently 1-3-veined. Corolla 12.5-17.7 x 13.0-20.4 mm when flattened, bilabiate, tubular-funnelform, white, glabrous externally; tube 4.6-8.1 x 3.3-5.2 mm at apex, 2.5-3.7 mm wide at base, not constricted near base, curved or slightly curved, purple inside with 3 lines of hairs; anterior corolla lobes 5.6-9.2 x 4.3-6.9 mm, 2.0-3.7 mm wide at base. posterior corolla lobes 3.6-6.4 x 3.0-5.0 mm at widest point, 1.6-2.7 mm wide at base, spreading, obcordate or slightly obovate, apically emarginate. Stamens 4, didynamous, glabrous bases not expanded; 2 long stamens 4.2-7.0 mm long, reaching tube or exerted; two short stamens 3.2-5.8 mm long, included. Style 3.0-4.9 mm long, bent near base, exerted; stigma 0.3-1.0 mm diameter, emarginate; ovary 2.2-3.1 x 1.4-2.0 mm. glabrous. Capsules 3.9-6.5 x 3.3-6.2 mm, glabrous, with loculicidal dehiscence; fruiting pedicels 20.0-27.0 mm long. Seeds 0.7-1.1 x 0.3-0.6 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to *O. sessiliflora* Hook.f. from which it differs by the lax, semi-erect rather than erect habit, soft-textured leaves on long petioles which are widely spaced, rather than close set, tufted or in rosettes; and by the posterior calyx lobes divided 1/4-1/2 the length of the calyx rather than with all calyx lobes divided to the calyx base.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is considered to be a localised endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

ourisia: After Ouris, governor of the Falkland Islands

remotifolia: Remote foliage (referring to the leaves' distance from one another)

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Meudt (2006).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Meudt, H.M. 2006: Monograph of *Ourisia* (Plantaginaceae), Systematic Botany Monographs 77. 188pp

MORE INFORMATION

