Ourisia remotifolia

COMMON NAMES
mountain foxglove

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Violet/Purple, White

Mt Burns, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 20/01/2009, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Mount Burns, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 13/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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 snot 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 lings 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 exserted; two short stamens 3.2-5.8 mm long, included. Style 3.0-4.9 mm long, bent near base, exserted; 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.

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.

THREATS

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

GENUS

Ourisia

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Ourisia remotifolia Arroyo

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1984)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING
December - January

FRUITING
January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY
ourisia: After Ouris, governor of the Falkland Islands
remotifolia: Remote foliage (referring to the leaves' distance from one another)

NVS CODE
OURREM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Meudt, H.M. 2006: Monograph of Ourisia (Plantaginaceae), Systematic Botany Monographs 77. 188pp

ATTRIBUTION
Description based on Meudt (2006).

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ourisia-remotifolia/

PDF DATE
07 June 2026