

Viola cunninghamii

COMMON NAMES

mountain violet, white violet

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO?

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South and Stewart Islands in montane areas from East Cape and Central Volcanic Plateau south. Also known from Tasmania.

GENUS

Viola

FAMILY

Violaceae

AUTHORITY

Viola cunninghamii Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

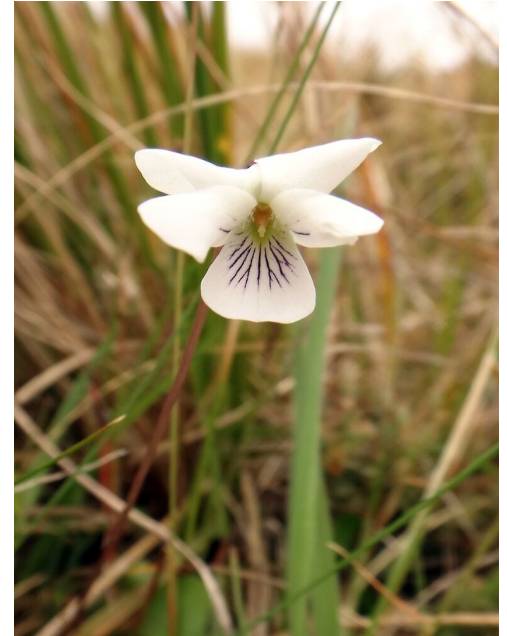
ETYMOLOGY

viola: The Latin name for violet

cunninghamii: Named after Allan Cunningham (1791–1839) who was an English botanist and explorer, primarily known for his travels to Australia (New South Wales) and New Zealand to collect plants. Author of *Florae Insularum Novae Zelandiae Precursor, 1837–40* (Introduction to the flora of New Zealand).

NVS CODE

VIOCUN



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Molesworth. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO?

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/viola-cunninghamii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026