

Myosotis cheesemanii

COMMON NAME

forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis cheesemanii Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOCHE

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (apparently confined to the Pisa and Dunstan Ranges, Central Otago).

HABITAT

Alpine. Mainly found in cushionfield. It has been recorded once from a snow bank.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming diffuse to semi-compact cushions 20–50 × 15–30 mm. **Branches** rooting freely from old leaf bases. **Stems** leafy, erect, branching several times. **Leaves** 12 × 5 mm, elliptic, sub acute, petiole of similar length, broad; leaf hairs stiff, appressed, imbricating on upper surface, on undersurface sparse; hairs on petiole forming a long fringe. **Lateral branches** immersed in cushion, internodes < leaves. **Stem-leaves** 7 × 2 mm, linear-oblong, sessile, very hairy, hairs appressed on both surfaces. **Inflorescence** a simple 2–4-flowered cyme, with each flower subtended by a bract, internodes and pedicels short. **Calyx** 5 mm long when in flower, lobes < half length of calyx, narrowly acute; hairs uniform and closely appressed. **Corolla** white, 7–8 mm diam., tube cylindric, 6 mm, corolla lobes 3 × 3 mm, rounded; filaments short, anthers 1.5 mm, projecting above rather large scales. **Style** 2 × calyx length. **Nutlets** ovate, 1.4–1.9 × 0.8–1.2 mm.



Myosotis cheesemanii, Dunstan Peak.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis cheesemanii is very close to *M. colensoi* from which it differs by its low cushion-forming rather than open mat-forming habit, uniform rather than variable leaf hair length, short rather than long lateral branches which unlike *M. colensoi* do not extend beyond the rosettes. Both species are also ecologically distinct: *M. colensoi* is confined to limestone rock and associated soils, *M. cheesemanii* a high alpine of cushion field and snow banks.

FLOWERING

Unknown

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Unknown

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown

THREATS

This species until recently remained little known to botanists. At least five populations are now known, and while most are small, at least one comprised 100 plants. Careful survey for this species is needed, as well as long-term monitoring of one or more populations to determine the species life cycle, and overall long-term stability.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

cheesemanii: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand*, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-cheesemanii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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