

Myosotis eximia

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis eximia Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Kaimanawa and Ruahine Ranges

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. A basicole confined to limestone bluffs and talus slopes



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted somewhat spreading perennial herb with a much branched base bearing numerous loose rosettes. Rosette-leaves 8, up to 100 × 15 mm (in dwarfed plants only 10 × 2 mm), petiole slender, almost equal in length to lamina, broadly sheathing at base; lamina elliptic, tip apiculate; hairs short, straight, stiff, closely appressed, not overlapping and sparse on leaf undersides (sometimes almost absent on old leaves). Lateral branches ascending, up to 250 mm long, leafless below cyme, lower internodes us. < lvs. Stem-lvs up to 25×7 mm., elliptic, apiculate, sessile, hairs similar to those on rosette-lvs but a little longer. Cymes simple or forked, ebracteate, c.12-flowered, up to 30 mm long; internodes < calyx in fruit; pedicels up to 2-4 mm; calyx 5-6 mm long, lobes > half calyx length, narrow and acute, hairs short, stiff, sparse and appressed. Corolla white, 14-18 mm diameter, tube 4.0-4.6 mm long with vertically elongated scales at mouth, flaring above into wide funnel-shape with shallow lobes c.5.0-6.0 × 3.0-3.5 mm; filaments long, reaching to level of lobes; anthers 2 mm long, prominently exerted; style 2-3× calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet 2.3-3.1 × 1.4-1.8 mm, ovate-elliptic, black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis eximia is easily recognised by its much branched spreading habit; leaves which are sparsely hairy (with the hairs short, stiff, and closely appressed); by the large and dense fruiting inflorescences whose internodes are less than the length of the calyx; by the anthers which are much shorter than their filaments and by the large white flowers which have wide-funnelform corolla-tubes, and straight rather than hooked calyx hairs. In the wild part of its range *Myosotis eximia* is very unlikely to be confused with any other *Myosotis* species.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

One of the few indigenous alpine *Myosotis* that is easily cultivated. Best grown in a sunny situation within a free-draining but moist soil enriched with lime. Excellent in a rockery or alpine house. This species flowers freely even in warm climates

THREATS

Myosotis eximia is a narrow-range, naturally uncommon endemic confined to base-rich rocks (mostly limestone and calcareous sandstones) of the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Range. Although it is very localised species known populations seem secure and none appear to be threatened.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

eximia: Strikingly unusual

WHERE TO BUY

Myosotis eximia is occasionally sold by specialist native plant nurseries (and even from time to time in more general nursery outlets).

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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