

Myosotis explanata

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis explanata Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOEXP

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: vicinity of Arthur's Pass

HABITAT

Riparian in upper montane subalpine to alpine streamsides on rocks or boulders. Also on cliff faces, rock ledges near waterfalls and in seepages or zones of snow-melt within scree

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, tufted, dull green to yellow-green perennial herb. Rosette usually single, leaves obovate to linear-spathulate, 30-70 × 14-16 mm, tip rounded and ± mucronate, petiole nearly as long as lamina, ill-defined; hairs tapering and flexuous, scarcely overlapping, on under-surface shorter, sparser and retrorse. Lateral branches few, erect, up to 200 mm long, internodes < or = leaves. Upper stem-leaves sessile and narrow-elliptic, 15-30 × 5-10 mm, tip broadly acuminate; hairs silky, copious, ± appressed except on fringed margin, shorter and sparser on under-surface. Cymes ebracteate, to 60 mm long, little branched, terminal on primary laterals; internodes between fruits occasionally equal to calyx; pedicels very short. Calyx long, reaching 10 mm in fruit, lobes about half the length of calyx, obtuse, rather broad and keeled; hairs of several lengths, not crowded, a few weakly hooked, spreading or retrorse towards base. Corolla white, up to 10 mm diameter, tube 6-10 mm long, slightly flaring above, lobes flat, rounded, c.4 × 3 mm; filaments very short, fixed just below scales, anthers nearly 2 mm long, tips reaching just beyond large scales; style > calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet 2.2-3.2 × 1.2-2.0 mm, ovate to elliptic, black.



Temple Basin (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis explanata is superficially similar to members of the *M. australis* agg., *M. suavis*, and (vegetatively only) the quite unrelated *M. macrantha*. It shares with the *M. australis* agg., *M. suavis* and *M. forsteri* calyx hairs of a range of different sizes though with many or all of the longer ones hooked. It differs from members of the *M. australis* agg. by the larger calyces (up to 10 mm cf. up to 6 mm in the *M. australis* agg.) which are cut off halfway to the base rather than nearly to the base, by the near absence rather than abundance of hooked hairs on the calyces (some always present), and by the anther scales projecting well above the scales (not in the *M. australis* agg.). From *M. suavis* it differs by the sparse rather than crowded hair covering of the leaves, and larger (10 mm cf. 7 mm in *M. suavis*) flower diameter. From *Myosotis macrantha* there is no reliable way to distinguish vegetative specimens of *M. macrantha* though the long narrow strongly coloured flowers of *M. macrantha* with the anthers exerted wholly beyond the ill-developed scales differ greatly from the shorter, salverform, pure white flowers of *M. explanata* whose anthers are at best only half exerted, and whose filaments are consistently positioned below the large scales.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Like all indigenous *Myosotis* this species is potentially difficult to cultivate. It is also prone to sudden collapse and a range of fungal diseases. For these reasons it is best grown in an alpine house or rock garden. However, results can be expected to vary across the country and even within the same garden from year to year.

THREATS

Myosotis explanata is a narrow-range, naturally uncommon endemic believed to be secure within its only known habitats - most of which fall within a National Park. There are no known threats. However, because there has only been limited observations made of this species in the wild a full survey to ascertain its exact range and abundance would be useful. For this reason the species has been qualified "DP" [Data Poor].

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

explanata: Flattened

ATTRIBUTION

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

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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-explanata/>

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