

Myosotis uniflora

COMMON NAMES

Riverbed forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, CI, DPS, DPT

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched tufted perennial herb arising from a long stout central woody taproot. Plants forming compact rounded cushion up to 100 mm diameter. Stems 10-50 mm long, c.5 mm diameter, crowded, ± erect, closely covered with imbricating leaves. Leaves c.5 mm long; base 1.5 mm. wide, membranous, sheathing, fringed with long hairs; lamina narrower, triangular to subulate, ± concave, apex subacute; hairs stiff, appressed, ± overlapping. Flowering branchlets short, not projecting above cushion, their leaves lacking the broad base but otherwise similar to lower leaves. Calyx c.3 mm long, lobes c. 1/2 length, rather broad, subacute, glabrous within, the whole calyx covered outside with uniform stiff appressed overlapping hairs. Corolla yellow fading to white with age, 4-5 mm diameter, tube 5 mm long, long-cylindric, lobes c.2 × 2 mm, rotund, flat; filaments short, anthers 1.5 mm long, tips protruding just above rather large scales; style 2-3× calyx, stigma capitate. Nutlets dark, up to 2.0 × 1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinct species unlikely to be confused with any other *Myosotis*, and unique in its preference for stony river beds. In the field this species is easily recognised by the dark green cushions it forms, by the closely packed stems and narrow leaves, and when flowering by the conspicuous yellow flowers.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Eastern from Canterbury to Central Otago.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Favouring stony and shingle river beds, flats and consolidated moraines.

THREATS

Myosotis uniflora is an uncommon, mostly sparsely distributed species occupying habitats that are becoming increasingly vulnerable to weed invasion, or used for viticulture. If these trends continue then it is likely that *M. uniflora* will eventually be listed at some of level of threat.

GENUS

Myosotis



Bealey River (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mounds of flowering plants, Pisa Flats. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis uniflora Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September to November

FRUITING

November to January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild. This species can be grown in an alpine house but it is difficult to maintain.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

uniflora: Single-flowered

NVS CODE

MYOUNI

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: CD, DPT, OL 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.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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