

# Myosotis uniflora

## COMMON NAMES

Riverbed forget-me-not

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis uniflora* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYOUNI

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

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

## HABITAT

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



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



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

## 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.

## FLOWERING

September to November

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## 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.

## 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.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**uniflora:** Single-flowered

## 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-uniflora/>

## PDF DATE

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