

# Myosotis albosericea

## COMMON NAMES

Yellow forget-me-not

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, perennial herb, producing one or more white-hairy rosettes. Leaves numerous, narrow-spathulate, 30 x 30 mm, apex sub acute, all parts covered in silky silvery-white hairs all of one type, uniformly stiff, straight, appressed, imbricating so as to hide leaf surface entirely. Lateral branches few, erect, up to 150 mm. Stem leaves sparse, upper ones sessile, narrow-oblong, 6 x 2 mm, apex sub acute. Inflorescence a simple, terminal cyme. Calyx 3 mm long, lobes > half length, narrow, acute. Corolla yellow, 5 mm diam., tube 4-5 mm, flaring toward top, corolla lobes 2.5 x 1.5 mm, oblong, filaments short, anther-tips below to just above scales; style » calyx in fruit,. Nutlets ovate, pointed and keeled, 1.7-2.1 x 1-1.1 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species whose grey hairy foliage, branches, inflorescence stems and large yellow flowers readily distinguish it from all other New Zealand *Myosotis* species.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Central Otago, southern Dunstan Range.

## HABITAT

Alpine. Amongst schist boulders in shade of rock tors.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

## THREATS

As far as is known this species has always been confined to a small portion of the Dunstan Range above the Kawarau River, near Cromwell. At present just the one population is known (and in fact this may be the same population as that discovered originally by John Buchanan and James Hector). That population has been regularly monitored for the greater part of 30 years, and seems to be stable. Nevertheless because the species is known from just the one site, within an area of < 1 ha it qualifies as Nationally Critical.

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis albosericea* Hook f.

## SYNONYMS

None



Cultivated from Dunstan Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



*Myosotis albosericea*. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FRUITING

January - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## OTHER INFORMATION

## CULTIVATION

A few plants are held by specialist growers. Very difficult to maintain in cultivation.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for April 2015](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis**: Mouse-eared

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

## 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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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotis albosericea* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-albosericea/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

01 October 2024