

Myosotis traversii var. traversii

COMMON NAME

Travers forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

Myosotis cockayniana Petrie; *Myosotis traversii* var. *cockayniana* (Petrie) Cheeseman

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis traversii Hook.f. var. *traversii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 48$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Mountains of Nelson, Marlborough, and North Canterbury (mostly east of the main divide).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. In active to semi-stable scree and shingly places

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted perennial herb dying back to rootstock in winter. Rosettes one or several, leaves spatulate, 20-70 × 4-9 mm, petiole broad and ill-defined; hairs copious on both surfaces, those on abaxial surface shorter, finer, sparser and distinctly retrorse, few (if any) hooked. Lateral branches ascending or erect, up to 200 mm long, internodes usually < leaves. Upper stem-leaves 12-20 mm long, oblong with rounded tips, hairs not hooked. Cyme compound, usually ebracteate, 8-12-flowered, distinctly capitate in flower and fruit, carried 10-20 mm above leaves in fruit; internodes and pedicels very short. Calyx up to 5 mm long in flowers, cut to half calyx length, subacute; short appressed hairs covering whole surface closely, associated with conspicuous, sparser long spreading coarse, hooked hairs. Corolla lemon-yellow to white, c. 4 mm diameter, tube c.5 mm long, cylindric, lobes c. 1.5 × 1.3 mm, rounded; filaments very short, anthers c.1.2 mm long, with tips projecting above well-developed scales; style usually much > calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet oblong, c.2.0-3.0 × 1.0-1.6 mm, ovate to ovate-elliptic.



Island Saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Island Saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis traversii is distinguished from all other indigenous *myosoti* by the erect ebracteate cymose inflorescences, and calyx-hairs which are of two distinct types, (i) short, fine, straight and closely appressed, and (ii) long, coarse, spreading and usually hooked. These attributes and its preference for scree and rock habitats make it a well marked species. Of the three recognised varieties, *M. traversii* var. *traversii* is the more northerly and differs from both var. *cantabrica* and var. *cinerascens* by the absence of hooked (uncinate) hairs on the under-surface of the stem-leaves. However, the status of *Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica* and var. *cinerascens* needs further exploration - as var. *cinerascens* (currently regarded as extinct) seems very close to var. *cantabrica*.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

February - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Likely to be difficult. Probably best grown in an alpine house or rock garden.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

traversii: Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-traversii-var-traversii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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