

Myosotis discolor

COMMON NAMES

grassland forget-me-not

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis discolor Pers.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYODIS

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised (indigenous to Europe). North, South and Chatham Islands

HABITAT

Open weedy ground, grassland, clay pans, dunes and stone strewn ground - especially common in those sites prone to drying out in late summer

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual dark green to purple-green or maroon herb with one to many, erect, hairy branches to c.250 mm high. Lower leaves shortly petiolate or sessile, to c.50 × 10 mm, oblong to oblong-spathulate, densely covered in straight hairs; apex obtuse to acute; upper leaves similar but smaller. Cymes ebracteate, usually elongating to greater in length than the leafy part of stem after flowering. Pedicels always less than calyces in length. Calyx c.3 mm long at anthesis, elongating to 4-5 mm and becoming closed at fruiting; tube with spreading, hooked hairs; lobes cut to half calyx-length. Corolla limb 1.5-2.5 mm diameter, yellow or cream, becoming blue; lobes entire, concave. Style equal to or greater than calyx. Nutlets 1.2-1.5 × 0.75-1 mm, ovoid, dark brown or black, with very narrow rim. Description based on: Webb et al. (1988).

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April



Myosotis discolor. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Myosotis discolor. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Myosotis discolor is a naturalised weed in New Zealand. It was first recognised in New Zealand in 1879. Although it is an at times common weed of seasonally dry habitats (especially rough pasture and grassland) it is not regarded as a serious environmental weed. Its impacts (if any) on our indigenous ecosystems probably happened a long time ago in the early stages of its naturalisation.

YEAR NATURALISED

1879

ORIGIN

Europe

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

discolor: Two colours or of different colours; from the latin dis and color; different colours of the leaf surfaces

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988)

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

17 September 2024