

Myosotis antarctica subsp. antarctica

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis antarctica Hook. f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous: Campbell Island and South America

HABITAT

Widespread and at times locally common in herbfield, grassland, rocky places and crevices

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rosette-leaved herb. Rosette leaves 10-20 × 4-5 mm, lamina obovate, obtuse, petiole short, broad; hairs on upper surface crowded, long, soft and silky, those of under-surface sparse, glabrate. Lateral branches numerous, decumbent, up to 70 mm long, occasionally branched, internodes usually < leaves. Stem-leaves similar to rosette-leaves near base, becoming sessile above, bracts c.5 × 2 mm. Cymes usually simple, few-flowered, bracteate except at extreme tip, internodes, except the lowest, very short; pedicels c.1 mm long. Calyx c.3 mm long, lobes > 1/2 length, broad and subacute; hairs mostly very long and soft, a few short and closely appressed. Corolla blue (occasionally white), 2-3 mm diam, tube cylindric, 2 mm long, lobes 1.0-1.5 mm long, ± parallel-sided, narrowing above to obtuse tip; filaments very short, anthers < 1 mm, wholly included, tips not reaching scales; style < calyx, stigma clavate. Nutlet 1.1-1.4 × 0.7-1.0 mm, ovate, black.



Col Ridge, Campbell Island. Photographer: Phil Garnock-Jones, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis antarctica is closely allied to the *M. pygmaea* complex (comprising *M. brevis*, *M. drucei*, *M. glauca* and *M. pygmaea* and several allied and apparently unnamed species). From these it is geographically distinguished by its allopatry - being confined to Campbell Island where members of the *M. pygmaea* complex are apparently not present (but see Allan 1961), and, morphologically by its usually blue flowers (though Allan 1961 notes they are typically white, Webb et al (1988) state they are typically blue) and by the hairs on the leaf undersides which are copious, crowded, very fine and silky. These characters place it closest to *M. capitata* (endemic to the Auckland and Campbell Island groups) from which *M. antarctica* differs by its mostly shorter rosette leaves (up to 20 mm long cf. > 30 mm long in *M. capitata*), and by the bracteate rather than ebracteate cymes. While *M. antarctica* is easily distinguished from *M. capitata* its exact relationship to members of *M. pygmaea*, and indeed the status of all named and unnamed members of that complex needs critical study. A part revision of the *M. pygmaea* complex is offered by de Lange et al. (2010) although an adequate summary of what is known of the group needs further investigation.

FLOWERING

November - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

December - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably difficult.

THREATS

Myosotis antarctica is listed simply because it is a narrow range endemic confined to one small island group. As far as is known there are no threats acting on this species which occurs within a Nature Reserve and World Heritage site which has strict controls on the number of visitors each year.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

antarctica: Antarctic

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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