

# Myosotis arnoldii

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1961)

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis arnoldii* L.B.Moore

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Marlborough (Upper Ure (Waima) River, Chalk Range especially around Ben More; Nelson (Hoary Head)

## HABITAT

*Myosotis arnoldii* is a basicole known only from marble (North West Nelson) and limestone (Marlborough) rocks where it grows on sparsely vegetated cliff faces, ledges and associated rubble slopes.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, tufted, silvery grey perennial herb. Rosette-leaves 30-70 × 5-9 mm, linear-spathulate to oblanceolate, lamina merging into broad ill-defined petiole, tip subacute to obtuse; hairs alike on both surfaces, uniformly stiff, straight, closely appressed, strongly overlapping so as to completely cover leaf surface. Lateral branches erect, up to 180 mm long, leafless below cyme, lower internodes < leaves. Stem-leaves 15-25 × 2-5 mm, narrow-oblong, tip subacute; hairs like those of rosette-leaves. Cymes usually once forked, ebracteate, many-flowered, compact and 2-3 cm. long in flower, internodes and pedicels short. Calyx c.8 mm long, lobes c. 1/2 length, subacute; covered in short appressed hairs, these forming a close even silvery cover from which project long stiff hooked hairs that are most numerous towards the base. Corolla yellow, greenish to almost black, 8-10 mm diameter, tube 10-15 mm long, narrow-funnelform, > lobes, lobes c.3 × 3 mm, ± oblong; filaments broad, fixed between scales, about equal to anthers; anthers 2 mm long, wholly above scales; style at least 2× calyx, stigma capitate. Nutlet 2.6-3.1 × 1.3-1.5 mm, ovate-elliptic to elliptic, black.



A plant at Hoary Head, Nelson (January).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hoary Head, Arthur Range, Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 26/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

*Myosotis arnoldii* is like a stouter version of *M. angustata* from which it differs by its silvery leaves and stems, strongly overlapping leaf hairs which completely obscure the leaf epidermis, and by the typically dark greenish to almost black (rarely yellow) rather than white flowers. The flowers of *Myosotis arnoldii* are rather similar to those of *M. macrantha* which can show the same range of colours, they differ only in that the lobes of *M. macrantha* seem to spread more widely.

### **FLOWERING**

October - January

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

Green, Yellow

### **FRUITING**

December - May

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Somewhat difficult. Can be grown in a rock garden or alpine house but results vary. Like all indigenous *Myosotis* this species is sensitive to humidity and prone to fungal attacks from mildews and rusts in muggy weather.

### **THREATS**

Within its only known habitat this species is locally common and so far does not appear to be seriously threatened by weeds or browsing animals.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

### **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**

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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