

Myosotis glauca

SYNONYMS

Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis glauca (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson)de Lange et Barkla

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: De, DP, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: De, DP, SP

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic, North and South Islands. In the North Island known from one site in the southern Kaimanawa Range. In the South Island known from widely scattered sites from Canterbury, Central Otago and northern Southland.

HABITAT

Open, dry sandy, gravelly ground or clay pans. Often in wind ablated scrapes, and shows a marked preference for base rich substrates. Usually found growing in small patches often in the vicinity of scabweeds. It has also been found growing amidst *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* (Hook.f.) Endl. mats.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent, biennial or perennial herb, forming small, circular patches on open ground. Rosette rather open, sparsely leafy. Petiole broad 5(-10) mm long. Leaves 10-30 x 5-8 mm, glaucous green or grey, obovate to spatulate, apex obtuse or rounded, rarely subacute, base narrowly cuneate to attenuate; upper surface clad in short, stiff, sparse tightly appressed hairs. Lateral branches few, decumbent, 50-100 mm long, extending well beyond rosette leaves, rather openly branching, internodes 10-15 mm long. Stem leaves similar to rosette-leaves. Bracts up to 8 x 6 mm, rather leafy, obovate. Inflorescences cymose, cymes simple, few- to many-flowered, subtended by leafy bracts throughout, internodes < bracts, often rather short. Pedicels 1.5-2 mm long. Calyx 3-5 mm long, elongating to 4-8 mm long in fruiting material, lobes deeply cut to half calyx length, lobes subacute, hairs few, confined in lines to margins and on vertical lines of calyx, very short, stiff and coarse. Flowers white. Corolla 3 mm diameter, corolla tube cylindrical 0.4-0.6 mm, lobes very narrow, apex obtuse; stamens on short filaments, anthers 0.5-0.8 mm, wholly included within corolla tube, anther tips obscured, rarely reaching scales; style 0.1-0.3, stigma capitate. Nutlets 1.2-1.5 x (0.8-)1-1.2 mm, brown-black to grey-black, broadly ovate.



Myosotis glauca, Nevis. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* in cultivation. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis glauca is allied to *M. brevis*, *M. drucei* and *M. pygmaea*. From these species *M. glauca* can be distinguished by the biennial to perennial habit, glaucous-green to grey leaf colour, the sparse, erect, stiff and short calyx hairs, and by the very broadly ovate nutlets (seeds).

FLOWERING

(August-) September to December (however sporadic flowering may occur throughout the year)

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

September to January (however fruits may be found throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed but short-lived and difficult to maintain for any length of time. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

Seriously threatened by weed invasion of the dry, open sites it requires.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

glauca: Bloom has thin powder

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

COMMENTS ON TAXONOMY

Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* was elevated to species rank by de Lange and Barkla in de Lange et al. (2010).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description by P.J. de Lange and subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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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MORE INFORMATION

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