

Myosotis monroi

COMMON NAME

Monro's forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis monroi Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOMON

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Red Hills (Wairau) and Mt Dun. An ultramafic endemic.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (> 1000 m a.s.l.). Usually found in open stony ultramafic talus slopes, scree and in open wind ablated clay and loess pans within *Chionochloa defracta* Connor tussock grassland. Also frequently found on old mine tailings near the copper workings on Mt Dun.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted to compact, reddish-green to dark-green, perennial herb of open ultramafic rock and soil habitats. Petiole up to 40 mm long, narrow, rosette leaves 40 x 4 mm, dark green to red-green, spatulate, obtuse to retuse, apiculate; indumentum of copious to sparse short, straight, appressed, non-overlapping hairs above, similar, sparse, glabrescent to glabrous below. Lateral branches ascending to erect, 80–150 mm long, leafless below inflorescence, lower internodes < leaves. Cauline leaves 15 x 3 mm, narrowly elliptic, subacute, sessile to subsessile; upper surface with longer, softer hairs than seen on rosette-leaves, those on the margins longer, undersides clad in sparse short, stiff, hairs. Inflorescence cymose, cymes 10–20 mm long, usually bifid, ebracteate, (1-)5–20-flowered, internodes short, pedicels wanting. Calyx 5 mm long, cleft with lobes to almost half of length, these rather broad, subacute; hairs on lobes stiff, straight, appressed. Corolla 6 mm diameter, yellow, tube 5 mm, narrow, flaring slightly at mouth, scales at tube mouth narrow and raised, lobes 3 x 3 mm, narrowly ovate; filaments 8–12 (or more) mm long, strongly exerted, and positioned well above corolla, anthers 1 mm, yellow; style 10–12 mm long, stigma capitate. Nutlets 2.3–2.5 x 1.1–1.3 mm, black, ovate, apex rounded; base rounded or truncate.



Windy and exposed ultramafic site, Coppermine Saddle, Nelson. Photographer: Chris Ecroyd, Date taken: 03/11/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Red Hills Ridge, Red Hills, Marlborough. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically close to the North Island endemic *M. saxosa* Hook.f., which is a species of calcareous not ultramafic substrates, with hoary grey-green rather than sparsely to densely hairy (not hoary) dark-green to red-green, spatulate rather than usually broadly-ovate to obovate leaves, and white rather than yellow flowers.

FLOWERING

November - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

February - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown in a pot or in a sunny situation, planted within a magnesium enriched, free draining soil. Keep free from other competing plants.

THREATS

Not threatened. This species qualifies as Range Restricted because it is a narrow range, ultramafic endemic. It is locally common within its only known habitats, which due to the substrate toxicity, are largely naturally free of weeds.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

monroi: Named after Sir David Monro who was a 19th century New Zealand politician

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared of 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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MORE INFORMATION

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