

# Myosotis pulvinaris

## COMMON NAME

cushion forget-me-not

## SYNONYMS

*Myosotis hectorii* Hook.f.

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis pulvinaris* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYOPUL

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Central Otago

## HABITAT

Alpine to high alpine. Found in fell field, cushion bog, on the margins of solifluction lobes and in fine, stable scree. Rarely present in rubble at the bases of schist outcrops and tors.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Many-branched tufted silvery-grey to grey-green perennial forming compact rounded cushions up to 100 mm diameter, adventitious roots from branches. Stems 10-30 mm long, crowded, more or less erect, closely covered with imbricating leaves, the whole twig 5-10 mm diameter. Leaves c. 5-7 × 3-5 mm, the very broad-oblong lamina slightly narrowed to membranous sheathing base, tip very broad-obtuse; hairs long, silky, crowded, more or less appressed. Flowering lateral branches very short, often hidden, with a few narrow oblong leaves surrounding the solitary terminal almost sessile flower. Calyx c.3 mm long, lobes cut to half calyx length, subacute, finely hairy within, long soft hairs forming a complete cover outside. Corolla white, c.6 mm diameter, tube 4-5 mm long, lobes c.2 × 2 mm, broadly rounded, flat, overlapping at sinus; filaments short, anthers up to 1.5 mm long, tips protruding just above rather large scales; style 2-3× calyx, stigma capitate. Nutlets 1.3-1.9 × 0.8-1.1 mm, ovate-elliptic to oblong-elliptic, dark black.



Old Man range, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cultivated, ex Richardson Mts. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

The compact, silvery-grey to grey-green, hairy cushion-forming growth habit of *Myosotis pulvinaris* is unique to this species and it is unlikely to be confused with any other except the yellow-flowered *M. uniflora*. From sterile specimens of that species, the white-flowered *M. pulvinaris* can be easily distinguished by its boardly spatulate rather than narrowly elliptic leaves.

### **FLOWERING**

November - January

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

White, Yellow

### **FRUITING**

December - April

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**pulvinaris:** From the Latin pulvinar 'a cushion' and -aris 'resembling', meaning resembling a cushion i.e. convex or rather flattened

### **WHERE TO BUY**

Not commercially Available

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange. 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 pulvinaris* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-pulvinaris/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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