

Myosotis uniflora

COMMON NAME

Riverbed forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis uniflora Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOUNI

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Eastern from Canterbury to Central Otago.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Favouring stony and shingle river beds, flats and consolidated moraines.



Bealey River (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mounds of flowering plants, Pisa Flats. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched tufted perennial herb arising from a long stout central woody taproot. Plants forming compact rounded cushion up to 100 mm diameter. Stems 10-50 mm long, c.5 mm diameter, crowded, ± erect, closely covered with imbricating leaves. Leaves c.5 mm long; base 1.5 mm. wide, membranous, sheathing, fringed with long hairs; lamina narrower, triangular to subulate, ± concave, apex subacute; hairs stiff, appressed, ± overlapping. Flowering branchlets short, not projecting above cushion, their leaves lacking the broad base but otherwise similar to lower leaves. Calyx c.3 mm long, lobes c. 1/2 length, rather broad, subacute, glabrous within, the whole calyx covered outside with uniform stiff appressed overlapping hairs. Corolla yellow fading to white with age, 4-5 mm diameter, tube 5 mm long, long-cylindric, lobes c.2 × 2 mm, rotund, flat; filaments short, anthers 1.5 mm long, tips protruding just above rather large scales; style 2-3× calyx, stigma capitate. Nutlets dark, up to 2.0 × 1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinct species unlikely to be confused with any other *Myosotis*, and unique in its preference for stony river beds. In the field this species is easily recognised by the dark green cushions it forms, by the closely packed stems and narrow leaves, and when flowering by the conspicuous yellow flowers.

FLOWERING

September to November

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November to January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild. This species can be grown in an alpine house but it is difficult to maintain.

THREATS

Myosotis uniflora is an uncommon, mostly sparsely distributed species occupying habitats that are becoming increasingly vulnerable to weed invasion, or used for viticulture. If these trends continue then it is likely that *M. uniflora* will eventually be listed at some of level of threat.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

uniflora: Single-flowered

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 uniflora* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-uniflora/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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