



Myosotidium hortensia

Common Name(s):

Chatham Island Forget-me-not, Kopakopa, Kopukapuka

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic to the Chatham Islands. Found on Chatham (Rekohu), Pitt, South East, Mangere and most of the smaller islands, islets and some rock stacks.

Habitat:

Coastal cliffs, rock outcrops, sandy and rocky beaches just above the strand zone and coastal forest openings.

Features*:

Robust, perennial herb, forming patches up to 1 m tall by 1.0–1.5 m diameter. Root stock stout, cylindrical, rather fleshy, where emergent covered in numerous leaf scars, becoming woody with age. Petioles 0.1–0.5 m long, grooved above, channelled below. Lamina of basal leaves up to 0.4 m across, dark green to yellow-green, broadly ovate-cordate to reniform, thick, fleshy to coriaceous; upper surface glossy, glabrous; lower surface paler, minutely and evenly covered in retrorse hairs; margins entire; veins prominent, indented above, elevated below. Inflorescences lateral corymbose cymes, somewhat woody at base, with stem leaves; lower stem leaves similar to basal leaves, upper stem leaves smaller, oblong to broadly lanceolate or elliptic. Cymes 100–200 mm diameter, pedicels 10–15 mm long. Calyx lobes 5, 1.8–4.5 × 2.0–2.5 mm, broadly elliptic, covered in appressed hairs, apex obtuse, margin entire. Corolla 12–15 mm diameter, dark blue to pale blue, often flushing purple with age, occasionally white; lobes 5, 4.0–4.5 × 5.0–6.0 mm, orbicular, rounded, spreading, overlapping, apex obtuse; tube 2 mm long, throat partially occluded by 5 fleshy protuberances. Filaments c. 0.5 mm long, inserted near throat; anther included, 1.0–1.2 mm long. Ovary 4-lobed, style 0.7–1.0 mm long, stigma capitate. Fruit a nutlet, 10–15 mm diameter, brown to black, winged around margin; seed obovate, 7.5–9.0 mm long, testa black-brown.

Flowering:

September - November

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Formerly abundant around the coasts and islets, the range of *M. hortensia* has been significantly reduced to scattered remnants by farming, competition from marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and the depredations of feral animals, such as cattle, horses, sheep, possums, pigs, rats and weka who trample, uproot and browse plants. Possums, rodents, and weka are serious predators of flowers and fruits. Weed encroachment, especially by marram grass, has eliminated this species from most of its former dune habitat. Removing whole plants for private use in gardens is an ongoing problem for the more accessible populations. Coastal development destroyed the only known white-flowered wild plants, and remains a potential threat elsewhere.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on 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.

Garnock-Jones PJ. 2014: Evidence-based review of the taxonomic status of New Zealand's endemic seed plant genera, New Zealand Journal of Botany, DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2014.902854](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2014.902854)

Heenan, P.B., Schönberger, I. 2009. Typification of *Myosotis hortensia* Decne., the basionym of *Myosotidium hortensium* (Decne.) Baill., and its synonym *Cynoglossum nobile* Hook.f. (Boraginaceae). New Zealand Journal of Botany, Vol. 47: 121–125

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=73



Caption: Kaingaroa, Chatham Islands

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Otauwe, Chatham Island

Photographer: John Sawyer