



## *Myosotis lytteltonensis*

### Common Name(s):

Lyttelton forget-me-not

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island formerly recorded from Ohiro Bay. In the South Island similar plants have been collected from the Swale River, inland Kaikoura Range in the early part of last century. All current records come from Banks Peninsula, in several sites overlooking Lyttelton Harbour.

### Habitat:

Generally coastal, on cliff faces, but also found inland. Usually on sparsely vegetated rock ledges, crevices and rock overhangs, nearly always in damp and shady places.

### Features\*:

Short-lived robust, perennial herb. Rosette leaves on stout petioles 30-70 mm long, sheathing at base; lamina 25-40 x 8-15 mm, broadly oblong to spatulate, obtuse to retuse, apex apiculate, all parts hairy, hairs, long silky, more or less appressed. Lateral branches numerous 150 x 450(-800) mm long, decumbent to prostrate, trailing, ascending at tips, copiously covered in straight, somewhat appressed hairs. Upper stem leaves petiolate becoming sessile, 25-35 x 15-30 mm. Inflorescence cymose, with many subsidiary laterals. Flowers usually white, or white with yellow eye, 10 mm diam. Pedicels 2-5(-10) mm. Calyx tubular, 5-lobed, lobes linear to linear-lanceolate, acuminate, outer surface densely invested with straight hairs. Corolla tube funnellform, twice calyx length, scales 5; lobes 5, shortly-obtuse to rounded. Anthers inserted within tube, tips scarcely reaching scales. Style reaching or exceeding corolla scales. Nutlets ovoid, glossy, greyish black.

### Flowering:

(September-) October - January.  
However plants may be found flowering throughout the year

### Fruiting:

May be present throughout the year

### Threats:

The North Island occurrence was destroyed by quarry operations. There have been no recent collections from the Kaikoura region. The Banks Peninsula populations were at severe risk from feral goats, most of which have now been eliminated from the peninsula. Currently Banks Peninsula plants are threatened by weeds which have invaded many of its bluff, ledge and cliff habitats.

### \*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.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=26](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=26)



**Caption:** Banks Peninsula

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



**Caption:** A close up of *Myosotis australis* var. *lytteltonensis*, flowering and upper stem leaves

**Photographer:** Gillian M. Crowcroft, Ex Cult. near Lyttelton, Banks Peninsula, October 2001