

1 *Myosotis saxosa*

Survey for several Nationally Critical forget-me-nots in eastern North Island revealed that a lot more of one of the species is present than previously thought. *Myosotis saxosa* is a small, white-flowered forget-me-not, endemic to the eastern North Island, where it occurs on calcareous sandstone-limestone outcrops on the Raukumara and Maungaharuru Ranges.

Surveys around the high points on the Maungaharuru Range, in inland Hawke's Bay in December 2020 and January 2021 revealed more extensive populations than previously thought, with the plants occupying a larger area and numbering in the thousands.

The new data will lower its threat status at the next Threatened Plants listing, but the exact new status is yet to be determined because unfortunately, surveys undertaken by Te Papa Tongarewa and DOC in the Raukumara Range and at its other known historic locations did not locate more plants so there is still, overall a contraction its range; it is therefore likely to shift to Nationally Vulnerable.

Another Hawke's Bay forget-me-not – *Myosotis petiolata* – remains at Nationally Critical. It is also an eastern North Island endemic, now only known from one (or maybe two) plants occupying an area of about 1 m² on limestone in the Te Waka Range. These surveys unfortunately failed to find any new plants or populations.

Whilst several introduced herbivores are present on the Maungaharuru Range, forget-me-nots are believed to be relatively unpalatable. It is thought that competition with weeds – especially introduced grasses – is the main cause of decline. Research is planned to investigate controlling these to improve the species future survival.

2 Matthew's forget-me-not *Myosotis matthewsii*

The second forget me not that has improved status is Matthew's forget-me-not (*Myosotis matthewsii*). This is another small, creeping, white-flowered forget-me-not, endemic to north-western Northland, between Hokianga Harbour and Kaitiaki, where it occurs on volcanic bluffs and hillslopes, under regenerating shrubland and secondary forest along the western faces of Warawara (and previously Herekino) Forests.

In 2010, the species was known from only one population on the Warawara massif, at a site that was affected by pig rooting. This has however been mitigated by a recent project involving DOC and local kaitiaki who secured the site from further damage by erecting an exclosure fence around it.

Around the same time, surveys in Warawara Forest undertaken by Landcare Research and local iwi revealed new populations under regenerating shrubland and forest, in several valleys to the north; and subsequently, more new populations have been found under regenerating kanuka shrubland at Mitimiti itself.

Local iwi are now also growing Matthew's forget-me-not in a local nursery, which further increases its security.

More surveys are required to determine the extent and abundance of Matthew's forget-me-not in the wild, to support reassessment of its threat status.