

Myosotis arvensis (L.) Hill (Boraginaceae), a Naturalized Species in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT: *Myosotis arvensis* (L.) Hill (Boraginaceae), a species native in the Europe, was naturalized recently in the northeast Taiwan. The introduction of *M. arvensis* adds a new element for both the genus and the species to the floristic composition of this island. *Myosotis* closely resembles *Trigonotis*, but can be easily distinguished from the latter and other genera of the Boraginaceae by having smooth and biconvex nutlets. This paper provides description of the genus and the species, line drawing, and color photos.

KEY WORDS: Boraginaceae, *Myosotis arvensis*, Naturalized plant, Newly recorded genus, Newly recorded species, Taxonomy, Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION

Boraginaceae comprises ca. 117 genera and 2,400 species in the world (Zhu *et al.*, 1995). Despite the early Japanese works, the family of Taiwan has been taxonomically revised by Hou (1950), Hsiao (1978), and Liu (1998a). Consequently, twelve genera and 24 species were recorded in the second edition of Flora of Taiwan (Liu, 1998b). Recently, Wang and Shen (2001) reported a new record, *Trigonotis peduncularis* (Trev.) Bentham *ex* Baker & S. Moore, from Alishan, central Taiwan. In the course of our botanical inventory, *Myosotis arvensis* (L.) Hill was found recently naturalized in northeast Taiwan. It represents a new record for the genus and the species on this island. This paper describes the morphology of the genus and species with a line drawing and color photos.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Myosotis Linn.

Herbs annual or perennial, usually pubescent. Leaves alternate. Inflorescences terminal, raceme-like scorpioid cymous, simple to few-branched, ebracteate or rarely with few bracts; calyx 5-lobed or parted; corolla blue or white, 5-lobed, rotate, with 5 scale-like appendages at the throat; stamens 5, included, inserted at corolla tube, anthers ovate to elliptic, filaments short; Ovary 4-parted, globose, style single, stigma capitate. Nutlets 4, biconvex, smooth, shiny.

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