

Gaultheria crassa

SYNONYMS

Gaultheria rupestris var. *parvifolia* Hook.f., *Gaultheria rupestris* var. *humilis* G.Simpson

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Gaultheria crassa Allan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

GAUCRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy sprawling shrub bearing small oval leathery toothed leaves on hairy twigs inhabiting mountains from the Ruahine south. Hairs on twigs dark, often mixed with shorter paler hairs. Flowers white, bell-shaped, in clusters to 4cm long at tip of twigs. Leaves 10-15mm long by 5-7mm wide. Fruit a dry capsule.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

gaultheria: Named after Jean François Gaultier of Quebec (6 Oct 1708-10 July 1756) by the Scandinavian Pehr Kalm in 1748.

crassa: Thick, fleshy, dense or fat

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309



L. Tennyson, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Gaultheria crassa, Tasman Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gaultheria-crassa/>