

Gaultheria depressa var. novae-zealandiae

COMMON NAME

snowberry

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Gaultheria depressa var. *novae-zealandiae* D.A.Franklin

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

GAUDVN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low-growing shrub bearing oval leathery leaves that have small hairs on the wavy margin when young. Twigs with dark bristly hairs. Leaves 5-8mm long by 3-4mm wide. Flowers white, bell-shaped, solitary at base of leaf. Fruit white to red, 8-10mm wide, lobed.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

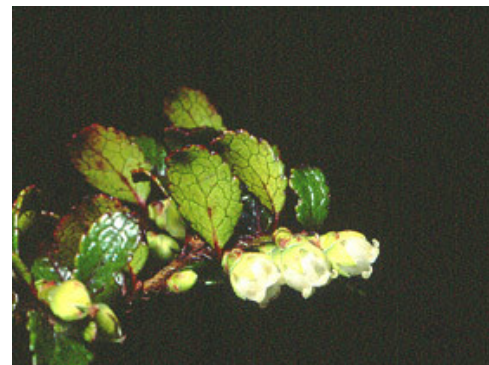
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by invertebrate frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).



Upper Clarence, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Technical, Canterbury (white fruit).
Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

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

depressa: From the Latin depremere 'to press down', meaning to be flattened vertically, often referring to a plant's habit

novae-zealandiae: Of New Zealand

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gaultheria-depressa-var-novae-zealandiae/>