

Gaultheria macrostigma

COMMON NAME

prostrate snowberry

SYNONYMS

Pernettya macrostigma Colenso, *Gaultheria depressa* var. *microphylla* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Gaultheria macrostigma (Colenso) D.J.Middleton

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

GAUMAC

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 sprawling tangled dark green or brownish shrub bearing narrow leathery leaves inhabiting upland areas. Twigs with bristle-like hairs. Leaves 6-15mm long by 1-3mm wide, with several prominent teeth on margin. Flowers white or pinkish, bell-shaped, clustered at tip of twigs. Fruit white to red, 6mm 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).



Flagstaff hill, Dunedin, December.

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Gaultheria macrostigma, Chrystalls Beach.

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ETYMOLOGY

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

macrostigma: With a large stigma

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-macrostigma/>