

# Gaultheria oppositifolia

## COMMON NAME

snowberry

## SYNONYMS

*Gaultheria multibracteolata* Colenso

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gaultheria oppositifolia* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

GAUOPP

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy sprawling shrub bearing pairs of oval leathery toothed leaves attached directly to the twigs inhabiting rocky places in the North Island. Hairs on twigs dark, scattered. Flowers white, bell-shaped, in clusters to 10cm long at tip of twigs. Leaves 3-6cm long by 2-3cm wide. Fruit a dry capsule.

## 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.

**oppositifolia:** Opposite leaved

## 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-oppositifolia/>



Waihaha, Taupo, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.