

Gaultheria parvula

SYNONYMS

Pernettya nana Colenso

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Gaultheria parvula D.J.Middleton

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

GAUPAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Creeping woody herb to 30cm or so wide bearing closely-spaced small oval thick narrow leaves with single bell-shaped small white flowers scattered among plant. Twigs not visible. Leaves with paler veins contrasting with the brownish leaf. Fruit 3-4mm wide, white to red. Inhabiting mountains of the eastern South Island.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by invertebrate frugivory (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.

parvula: Very small, insignificant



Hakataramea pass, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ahuriri Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

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-parvula/>