

# Gentianella antarctica

## COMMON NAME

Campbell Island gentian

## SYNONYMS

*Gentiana antarctica* Kirk, *Gentiana antarctica* var. *imbricata* Kirk, *Gentiana concinna* var. *elongata* Hook.f., *Gentiana concinna* var. *robusta* Hook.f., *Chionogentias antarctica* (Kirk) L.G.Adams, *Oreophylax antarcticus* (Kirk) Á.Löve nom. inval.

## FAMILY

Gentianaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gentianella antarctica* (Kirk) T.N.Ho et S.W.Liu

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine. Low forest, *Chionochloa antarctica* tussocklands and *Poa litorosa* grasslands, also present in *Marsippospermum gracile* sedgeland on summit fellfields.



Campbell Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Campbell Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants monocarpic, probably biennial, height in flower 16–220 mm. **Caudex** unbranched, 4–13 mm long. **Root** unbranched, c. 2 mm diameter at stem base. **Flowering stems** terminal only, largest flowering stem c. 2.5 mm diameter at base, stem colour green or tinted crimson, 4 pairs of leaves per stem, lowest pedicels from halfway up flowering stem. **Rosette leaves** distinct from flowering stem leaves, narrowly elliptic, 11.0–82.0 × 3.1–17.6 mm, green or tinted purple-black or bronze, flat, apex acute to rounded, not recurved or recurved at tips of smaller leaves; margins recurved, thickened; petiole absent or indistinct, c. 5–11 mm long, 1.6–8.8 mm wide at leaf base. **Flowering stem leaves** almost identical to rosette leaves but shorter and wider. **Pedicels** one or two per leaf axil, 1.6–4.5 mm long, c. 0.5 mm diameter. **Flowers** 9–49 per plant, 7–12 mm long. **Calyx** 5.5–7.6 mm long, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line present; lobes 4.0–5.9 mm long, 1.2–1.5 mm wide at base, plane, apices acute, margins minutely denticulate, sinus hairs sparse or absent. **Corolla** 9.5–14.0 mm long, white or pink to dark purple with veins colourless or pink to dark purple; tube 3.0–5.5 mm long; lobes 4.6–8.5 × 1.5–2.9 mm, hairs below sinus absent; nectary 1.6–3.4 mm from corolla base. **Filaments** 3.4–7.2 mm long from corolla base, 0.5–0.6 mm wide. **Anthers** 1.0–1.2 mm long, anther wall blue-black, rarely yellow, extrorse at anthesis. **Stigma** colour unknown. **Ovules** 7–27 per ovary. **Capsule** 8.0–13.2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all other New Zealand species by the combination of its erect terminal flowering stem, its flowers on short pedicels, leaves with a thickened and recurved margin, corolla and calyx hairs absent from the sinuses, nectaries distant from the corolla base, and corolla lobes narrow and long.

## FLOWERING

December–April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

March–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted, island endemic. Abundant on the islands it is under no obvious threat. The Campbell Islands are administered as a Nature Reserve and are part of a World Heritage Park with access strictly controlled by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

## ETYMOLOGY

**gentianella**: Little Gentiana (named after Gentius, 6th century king of Illyria, who found the roots of the yellow gentian to have a healing effect on his malaria-stricken troops)

**antarctica**: Antarctic

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (October 2004). Description modified from Glenny (2004).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Glenny, D. 2004. A revision of the genus *Gentianella* in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42(3): 361–530. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2004.9512910>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gentianella-antarctica/>