

Gentianella astonii subsp. arduana

COMMON NAME

Ward Beach gentian, Chalk Range gentian

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY

Gentianella astonii subsp. *arduana* Glenny et Molloy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Marlborough, near Ward, Chalk Range, Mean Hill and In Canterbury at Whalesback Ridge

HABITAT

Coastal to montane on limestone rocks. Often on steep bluffs, cliffs and cliff faces, ledges, crevices and rock joints. Also on limestone talus, colluvium and associated rendzina soils

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted perennial up to 110 mm tall when flowering. Flowering stems, 3-26 per plant, green or purple-black. Rosette leaves absent. Leaves narrowly to very narrowly elliptic to obovate, 8.6-25 x 1.1-3.9 mm, purple at base, otherwise dark green, flat or slightly V-shaped, margins minutely toothed or smooth; apex rounded to acute. Pedicels (0-)3-18 mm long. Flowers 6-52 per plant, 10-20 mm long. Calyx 5.2-7.1 mm; lobes, green, 3.5-5.4 x 1.1-1.7 mm, plane or recurved, margins minutely toothed. Corolla 9.2-15.2 mm, white, with violet tinting on the outside and inside of the corolla lobe apices, tube 3.0-5.2 mm; lobes 6.2-10 x 3.9-6.7 mm, apices toothed. Nectaries 1.2-4.3 mm from corolla base, V-shaped with a pocket or flaps that are not fused at base, margins toothed to entire. Filaments 4-8.6 mm from corolla base. Anthers 1.1-2.0 mm, anther wall blue-black. Ovules 13-28 per ovary. Capsule 7.6-15 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *G. astonii* (Petrie) T.N.Ho et S.W.Liu subsp. *astonii* by the smaller leaves (8.6-25 cf. 16-32 mm in subsp. *astonii*), smaller anthers (1.1-2 cf. 1.7-2.5 mm in subsp. *astonii*), and 13-28 ovules per ovary cf. 27-30 ovules per ovary in subsp. *astonii*. From *G. calcis* Glenny et Molloy, *G. astonii* differs by the shorter leaves (9-32 cf. 30-83 in *G. calcis*), which are plane and without a recurved apex.



FLOWERING

March-June (-October)

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

April-November

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Most at risk in the lowland part of its range, where it is threatened by weeds and the potential for further limestone quarrying. Otherwise secure in the inland and more montane part of its range. Previously regarded (as *Gentiana* aff. *astonii* (d) (CHR 529114; Ward) and *Gentiana* aff. *astonii* (f) (CHR 279272; Chalk Range)) as Range Restricted in de Lange et al. (2004).

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)

astonii: After Aston

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet for NZPCN prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2004). Description modified from Glenny (2004)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange et al., 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand, *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45-76.

Glenny, D. 2004: A revision of the genus *Gentianella* in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 361-530.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gentianella-astonii-subsp-arduana/>