

Gentianella bellidifolia

COMMON NAME

gentian

SYNONYMS

Gentiana bellidifolia Hook.f., *Gentiana bellidifolia* var. *australis* Petrie ex Cheeseman, *Gentiana flaccida* Petrie, *Chionogentias bellidifolia* (Hook.f.) L.G.Adams, *Oreophylax bellidifolius* (Hook.f.) Á.Löve nom. inval.

FAMILY

Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY

Gentianella bellidifolia Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

GENBEL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand North and South Islands from Pureora south.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine in tussock grasslands, herbfields and fellfields

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Umukarikari Range, Kaimanawa. Mar 2008.
Photographer: Matt Renner, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mangatepopo, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants polycarpic, height in flower 80–370 mm. Root 1.2–6.0 mm diameter at stem base. Caudex unbranched or branched, 15–90 mm long, stolons absent. Flowering stems lateral only, 1–13 per plant, largest flowering stem 1.0–3.2 mm diameter, green, tinted purple-black, or bronze, lateral flowering stems erect or decumbent, stem leaves 2–4 pairs per stem, lowest pedicels from halfway up flowering stem or near apex of flowering stem. Rosette of leaves present and distinct from flowering stem leaves, leaves narrowly elliptic, elliptic, rhomboid, or orbicular, 11.0–140.0 × 4.0–12.5 mm, green or tinted purple-black, channelled, larger leaves V-shaped, leaf apex acute to rounded; petiole usually distinct, 7.0–27.0 × 0.8–4.6 mm. Flowering stem leaves elliptic to narrowly ovate. Pedicels 1 per leaf axil, 1–48 mm long, 0.8–1.9 mm diameter, 0.5–0.8 mm diameter when dry. Flowers 1–45 per plant, 12–23 mm long, rarely female. Calyx 8.2–13 mm long; lobes 3.8–8.3 mm long, 1.7–4.2 mm wide at base, green or green tinted purple-black, crimson, or brown, plane, lobe apices acute, margins convex, smooth or minutely denticulate, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line present or absent, hairs at lobe sinuses few. Corolla 15.6–22.6 mm long, white (in the South Island) or with veins coloured grey-violet (in the North Island), tube 3.4–6.0 mm long; lobes 11.1–17.0 × 6.3–12.4 mm, hairs above sinus present; nectary 0.4–1.4 mm from corolla base. Filaments 7.7–12.5 mm long from corolla base, 0.6–2.0 mm wide. Anthers 1.8–3.0 mm long, anther wall blue-black, mouth yellow, extrorse at anthesis. Stigma colourless. Ovules 16–68 per ovary, ovary yellow in maturity, rarely turning blue. Capsule 17–24 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the flowering stems arising from below the apex of the leaf rosettes; polycarpic flowering habit; narrowly elliptic, elliptic, rhomboid, or orbicular green or purple-black tinted leaves (11–142 mm long); stem leaves sessile and smaller than rosette leaves; large white flowers. Closest to *G. amabilis* from which differs by its taller growth habit, unspotted leaves narrower calyx lobes 1.7–4.4 mm (cf. 3.1–4.7 mm wide *G. amabilis*), and narrower filaments (1.2 mm cf. 1.7 mmwide).

FLOWERING

February – April

FLOWER COLOURS

Grey, White

FRUITING

March - June

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds dispersed by ballistic projection, wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

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)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet for NZPCN prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 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: 361–530.
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/gentianella-bellidifolia/>