

Gentianella calcis subsp. manahune

COMMON NAME

Manahune gentian

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY

Gentianella calcis subsp. *manahune* 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 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, EF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, South Canterbury, at Albury and Manahune

HABITAT

A limestone endemic growing in lowland to montane areas on limestone bluffs in rock joints, clefts, crevices and ledges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tufted herb. Petiole distinct, 14-32 mm long. Rosette leaves linear to very narrowly elliptical or narrowly obovate 30-60 mm long, 2.8-4.1 mm wide, green, V-shaped in cross-section, recurved at the acute leaf apex; margins minutely serrulate. Cauline leaves, 8 pairs per stem, linear, recurved, usually smaller than rosette leaves. Flowering stems, purple-black, 1-3 per plant. Pedicels 6.5-12 mm long, 0.75-0.9 mm diam. Flowers 24-42 per plant, 12-15 mm long. Calyx green, tinted purple black, 6.8-7 mm long; lobes 4.3-5.7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide at base, apices acute, recurved, margins minutely serrulate. Corolla 11.7-13.8 mm long, veins purple; tube 3.1-4.3 mm long; lobes 7.7-9.5 mm long, 5.4-6.0 mm wide, margins toothed; nectary 2.0-2.1 mm from corolla base, V-shaped deep but without flap. Filaments 6.6-8.1 mm long from corolla base, 0.45-0.6 mm wide. Anthers 1.75-2.0 mm long, extrorse at anthesis. Ovules 15-21 per ovary. Ovary blue at apex after fertilisation. Capsules 8-11.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to the other three subspecies of *G. calcis* Glenny et Molloy but distinguished from all of these by the purple Corolla veins. For differences between *G. calcis* subsp. *manahune* and *G. astonii* T.N.Ho et S.W.Liu see under *G. calcis* subsp. *calcis*.



FLOWERING

May-June

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

June-September

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Under severe threat from the spread of *Hieraceum pilosella* L. and pasture grasses, habitat loss due to changes in stocking regimes, and through browsing from feral goats. Limestone quarrying is a long-term threat, while the very small population is vulnerable to erosion, boulder and rock falls and erosion. Previously recorded as *Gentiana* aff. *astonii* (c) (CHR 542276; Manahune) 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)

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 on 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-calcis-subsp-manahune/>