

Gentianella concinna

COMMON NAME

Auckland Island gentian

SYNONYMS

Gentiana concinna Hook.f., *Gentiana cerina* var. *concinna* (Hook.f.) Kirk, *Chionogentias concinna* (Hook.f.) L.G.Adams

FAMILY

Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY

Gentianella concinna (Hook.f.) 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

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine. In open turf land, tussock grasslands, forest and scrub and within on sedgeland developed along the summit fellfields

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants monocarpic, probably biennial, height in flower 27–150 mm. Caudex unbranched. Flowering stems erect, terminal only or terminal and lateral with 1–4 flowering stems per plant, stems 0.7–3.4 mm diameter when dry, lateral flowering stems erect, flowering stem leaves 2–4 pairs per stem, lowest pedicels from halfway up flowering stem. Rosette of leaves distinct or not very distinct from flowering stem leaves; leaves narrowly elliptic, 15.0–32.0 mm × 3.7–8.0 mm wide, margin thickened, apex rounded, petiole indistinct, c. 10 mm long, 1.0–1.5(–2.5) mm wide at narrowest point. Pedicels 1 or 2 per leaf axil, 4.0–11.5 × 0.9–1.1 mm. Flowers 1–22 per plant, 10.5–12.0 mm long. Calyx 6.0–8.8 mm long; lobes 5.1–8.0 mm long, 2.0–2.3 mm wide at base, plane, apices acute or obtuse, margins minutely denticulate, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line present, sinus hairs absent. Corolla 8.7–13.0 mm long, ranging from white to strongly coloured, with purple veins and/or with weak to strong red to purple tinting; tube 2.0–3.0 mm long; lobes 6.7–10.0 × 4.2–6.1 mm wide, hairs below sinus present or absent; nectary 1.2–1.5 mm from corolla base. Filaments 4.1–8.0 mm long from corolla base, 0.55–0.70 mm wide. Anthers 1.2–1.8 mm long. Stigma purple. Ovules 13–40 per ovary. Capsule 7.7–9.0 mm long.



Enderby Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

SIMILAR TAXA

Gentianella concinna differs from the only other species present on the Auckland Islands, *G. cerina* by its biennial growth habit; erect flowering stems; calyces that are 6.0–8.8 mm long, and calyx lobes that are not pandurate and which are rounded or acute at the apices, with the corolla longer than the calyx and with leaves which are 15.0–32.0 × 3.7–8.0 mm

FLOWERING

November – April

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

December - June

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult to grow. 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 Auckland 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)

concinna: Charming, elegant

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: 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-concinna/>