

Gentianella impressinervia

COMMON NAME

gentian

SYNONYMS

None (described in 2004)

FAMILY

Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY

Gentianella impressinervia Glenny

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

GENIMP

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: South Island (north-western Nelson, North Westland, Canterbury)

HABITAT

Alpine in tall- and short-tussock grasslands developed on ridge lines and hill slopes, also in herbfield.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants polycarpic, height in flower 160–600 mm. Caudex branched, 65–300 mm long, leaf scars conspicuous, stolons usually present. Root 2.9–4.5 mm diameter at stem base. Flowering stems terminal and lateral, 4–6 per plant, largest flowering stem 2.5–5.5 mm diameter at base, stem colour tinted crimson, brown, or bronze, lateral flowering stems erect, flowering stem leaves 2–7 pairs per stem, lowest pedicels from ½ up flowering stem or near apex of flowering stem. Rosette of leaves not distinct or distinct from flowering stem leaves; leaves elliptic or obovate, 18–61 mm long, 7.9–21.0 mm wide, green or tinted crimson below, or slightly bronze-tinted, glossy, flat or slightly V-shaped, recurved or not, with lateral veins impressed on upper leaf surface; leaf apex apiculate or rounded; petiole absent or indistinct, 3.5–5.5 mm wide at leaf base. Flowering stem leaves ovate or obovate as for rosette leaves but sessile and almost amplexicaul, c.19 × 12 mm. Pedicels 1–2 per leaf axil, 12–35 mm long, 1.1–1.4 mm diameter. Flowers 6–42 per plant, 19–24 mm long, rarely female. Calyx 7.9–12.7 mm long, green, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line present; lobes 6.6–9.4 × 2.9–3.7 mm wide at base, plane, apices acute, margins smooth, sinus hairs absent, sparse, or abundant. Corolla 16.24 mm long; tube yellow or yellow-green, 4.6–7.2 mm long; lobes white with veins uncoloured, 11.3–18.1 × 7.5–12.5 mm, hairs below sinus present; nectary 1.2–2.2 mm from corolla base, dark yellow. Filaments 9.0–11.5 mm long from corolla base, 1.2–1.7 mm wide. Anthers 2.8–3.9 mm long, anther wall bluish purple, mouth yellow, extrorse at anthesis; pollen yellow. Stigma colourless. Ovules 44–84 per ovary, ovary yellow in maturity. Capsule 20–23 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by its height (350–600 mm); much branched robust caudex with a rosette of leaves at the base of each flowering stem; by the thick, broadly elliptic to obovate leaves with apiculate or rounded apices and glossy upper surface, with three impressed veins on the upper surface; the large flowers (c.21–24 mm long), and the large anthers (2.8–3.9 mm long). Superficially similar to *G. montana* with which it often grows and from which it differs having a yellow corolla tube.

FLOWERING

February – March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

March - May

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)

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

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-impressinervia/>