

# Gentianella lilliputiana

## COMMON NAME

little gentian

## SYNONYMS

*Gentiana lilliputiana* C.J.Webb, *Chionogentias lilliputiana* (C.J.Webb)  
L.G.Adams

## FAMILY

Gentianaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gentianella lilliputiana* (C.J.Webb) Glenny

## 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, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF

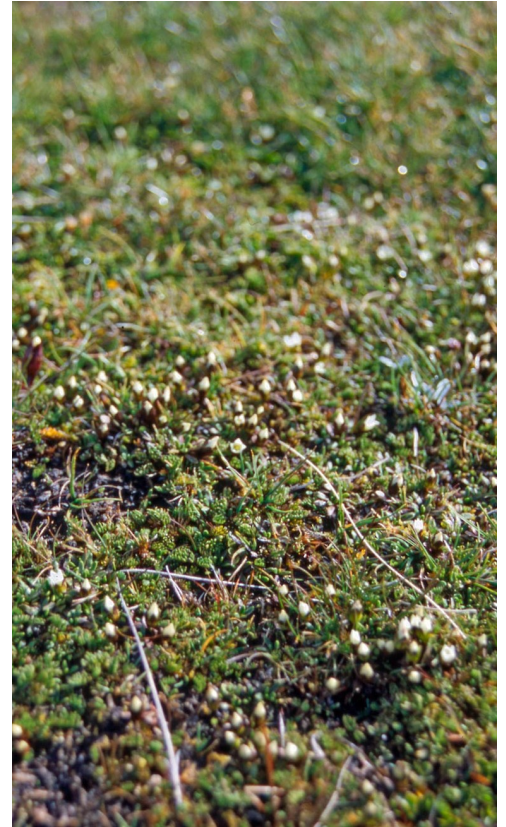
2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south Canterbury (Kirkliston Range, Hawkdun Range) and Otago (Dunstan Range)

## HABITAT

Alpine in bogs and flushes in alpine grasslands and herbfields on low relief ridge tops



Northern Dunstan Range. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Date taken: 04/02/2000, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Northern Dunstan Range. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Date taken: 04/02/2000, Licence: CC BY-SA.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants annual, monocarpic, annual, 6–25 mm tall in flower. Caudex unbranched. Taproot slender. Flowering stems terminal only or terminal and lateral, 1–4 per plant, stem colour yellow, lateral flowering stems erect or decumbent, c.0.7–0.6 mm diameter; flowering stem leaves 1–2 pairs per stem, lowest pedicels from near apex of flowering stem. Rosette of leaves absent from flowering plants, leaves linear or narrowly elliptic, 1.5–13 × 0.5–2.0 mm, flat, not recurved, petiole indistinct, 2–7 mm long, 0.4–0.6 mm wide at leaf base. Flowering stem leaves narrower than leaves. Pedicels 0.7–1.7 mm long, c. 0.5 mm diameter. Flowers 1–4 per plant, 3.7–5.0 mm long. Calyx 4–5-lobed, 2.4–6.2 mm long, green tinted purple-black, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line absent; lobes 1.0–3.3 mm long, 0.95–2.1 mm wide at base, plane, apices acute, margins smooth, sinus hairs absent. Corolla 3.4–4.3 mm long, white, veins uncoloured; tube 1.4–3.2 mm long; 4–5-lobed, lobes 2.0–3.6 mm long, 1.3–2.3 mm wide, hairs below sinus absent; nectary 0.6–1.0 mm from corolla base. Filaments 1.9–4.1 mm long from corolla base, 0.2–0.3 mm wide. Anthers 0.4–0.7 mm long, introrse at anthesis. Ovules 2–13 per ovary. Capsule 4.0–6.0 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from other *Gentianella* by its annual growth habit; very small size; and usually by the presence of a single terminal, mostly 4-merous flower (though on occasion there may be up to four flowers present). It most closely resembles *G. filipes* which is endemic to north-west Nelson in size. In Otago cushion bogs it could be confused with *G. amabilis*. From which it differs by being an annual, rather than a perennial, by its parts being very much smaller and by the flat rather than V-shaped leaves.

## FLOWERING

January – February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

February - April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

## THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, Range-restricted endemic which is locally common within its few known habitats. At present here are no known threats.

## 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-lilliputiana/>