

# Geum albiflorum

## COMMON NAME

Auckland Island geum, Auckland Island avens

## SYNONYMS

*Oncostylus albiflorus* (Hook.f.) F.Bolle; *Sieversia albiflora* Hook.f., *Geum aucklandicum* Greene, *G. sericeum* Kirk, *G. parviflorum* var. *albiflorum* (Hook.f.) Allan.

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Geum albiflorum* (Hook.f.) Scheutz

## 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, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Auckland Islands.

## HABITAT

On cliff faces and rock strewn ground, usually near high points.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Leafy, silky-hairy, rosette forming herb. Leaves 2-3 cm long, orbicular-cordate (circular to heart-shaped) or reniform (shaped like a kidney), bright to dull green, minutely lobed or crenate-toothed, hairy and rough textured on undersides, silky hairy above. Lateral leaflets absent or if present minute. Inflorescence on a stout, downy, 6-12 cm tall stalk, bearing 1-3 toothed bracts. Flowers in racemes, or solitary and terminal, subtended by ovate bracteoles. Calyx tube open, silky, calyx-lobes narrow, ovate to subacute. Petals white, only just exceeding calyx, bilobed (retuse). Achenes (seeds) with a short stalk, ovate, compressed, copiously covered in silky hairs, style remnant shorter than achene, hooked.



Among rocky outcrops, in tussock grassland, 350 M.A.S.L., north of the Hooker Hills, main Auckland Island, January 2023. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 14/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Among rocky outcrops, in tussock grassland, 350 M.A.S.L., north of the Hooker Hills, main Auckland Island, January 2023. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 14/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically similar to *G. cockaynei*, a common species of the North and South Islands, which does not occur on the Auckland Islands. *G. albiflorum* differs from it by its smaller leaves, 3-5 flowered inflorescences, and by the styles which are shorter than the achenes.

## FLOWERING

No information available

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

No information available

## LIFE CYCLE

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably difficult to grow without an alpine house. Fresh seed should germinate easily.

## THREATS

*Geum albiflorum* is probably not threatened. However, because it is an island endemic restricted to an remote island archipelago, and it has not always been accepted as a distinct taxon, its abundance in the wild remains unknown. It is for this reason it has been listed as Data Deficient.

## ETYMOLOGY

**geum**: Possibly from the Greek *geuo* 'to give a pleasant flavour', the roots of some species being aromatic.

**albiflorum**: From Latin *albus* 'white' and *florus* 'flower'

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Hooker (1844)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hooker, J.D. 1844: *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror in the Years 1839-1843*. 1. Flora Antarctica Part I. Botany of Lord Auckland's Group and Campbell's Island ed. London., Reeve, Brothers. 208 p.

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geum-albiflorum/>