

# Geum pusillum

## COMMON NAME

geum

## SYNONYMS

Oncostylus pusillus (Petrie) F.Bolle

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

Geum pusillum Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

GEUPUS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 70

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Central Otago (Old Man and Garvie Ranges)

## HABITAT

Alpine. Inhabiting snow banks and flushes. Usually found within *Ranunculus* L. or *Kelleria* Endl. mats, or amongst *Coprosma niphophila* Orchard.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, purple-brown to bronze-green, herb forming diffuse, prostrate patches. Plants at flowering 10-100 mm tall. Root stock slender, ± ascending, apex densely covered in long persistent, fibrous leaf remnants. Basal leaves up to 25(-45) mm long, pinnate; lateral leaflets small, in up to 5-(7) pairs; terminal leaflet 3-7(-10) mm long; lamina suborbicular, crenate-dentate, occasionally obscurely 3-5-lobed, hairs strigose, white, sparse; lateral leaflets 3-5 pairs, similar to basal leaves but smaller. Scapes 10-100 mm tall at flowering, bracts (0-)1(-3), pubescent. Flowers solitary, minute; calyx-lobes ovate. Petals 5-6, white, (0.9-)1.2-1.5 mm long, ± oblong to somewhat oblong-truncate. Receptacle elongate, villous. Achenes minute, glabrous, obliquely obovoid-oblong, style remnant minute, recurved.



Old Man range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

*Geum pusillum* is superficially similar to reduced forms of *G. leiospermum* Petrie which may bear only solitary flowers. From such plants *G. pusillum* differs by the pubescent peduncle which lacks the intermixed long hairs usually found in *G. leiospermum*, and also by the lateral leaflets which are usually not as reduced in relation to the terminal leaflet

### **FLOWERING**

November – February

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

White

### **FRUITING**

December- March

### **LIFE CYCLE**

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

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Can be grown in pots in an alpine house. Best from fresh seed.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

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

**pusillum**: Insignificant, weak

### **WHERE TO BUY**

Not Commercially Available.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Description based on herbarium specimens and both Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988)

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington

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

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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