

# Gaultheria antipoda

## COMMON NAME

bush snowberry, fool's beech

## SYNONYMS

*Gaultheria epiphyta* Colenso

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gaultheria antipoda* G.Forst.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

GAUANT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 22$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing rounded small leathery toothed leaves on hairy twigs. Hairs on twigs black mixed with shorter paler hairs. Flowers white, bell-shaped, solitary at base of leaf. Leaves alternating on stem, 7-10mm long by 6-10mm wide, sometimes much smaller at tip of twig, Fruit red or white, lobed.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by invertebrate frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).



Coromandel. August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## ETYMOLOGY

**gaultheria:** Named after Jean François Gaultier of Quebec (6 Oct 1708-10 July 1756) by the Scandinavian Pehr Kalm in 1748.

**antipoda:** Named after the Antipodes i.e. Australia or New Zealand which are on the opposite side of the world from Europe

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/gaultheria-antipoda/>