

# Gaultheria crassa

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy sprawling shrub bearing small oval leathery toothed leaves on hairy twigs inhabiting mountains from the Ruahine south. Hairs on twigs dark, often mixed with shorter paler hairs. Flowers white, bell-shaped, in clusters to 4cm long at tip of twigs. Leaves 10-15mm long by 5-7mm wide. Fruit a dry capsule.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## GENUS

Gaultheria

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gaultheria crassa* Allan

## SYNONYMS

*Gaultheria rupestris* var. *parvifolia* Hook.f., *Gaultheria rupestris* var. *humilis* G.Simpson

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**crassa:** Thick, fleshy, dense or fat

## NVS CODE

GAUCRA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22



L. Tennyson, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Gaultheria crassa*, Tasman Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## 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-crassa/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026