

# Gaultheria depressa var. depressa

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low-growing shrub bearing rounded leathery leaves that have obvious small hairs on margin. Twigs with dark bristly hairs. Leaves 5–10 mm long by 4–6 mm wide. Flowers white, bell-shaped, solitary at base of leaf. Fruit white to red, 6–10 mm wide, lobed.

## GENUS

Gaultheria

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gaultheria depressa* Hook.f. var. *depressa*

## SYNONYMS

*Gaultheria antipoda* var. *depressa* Hook.f.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**depressa:** From the Latin *depremere* 'to press down', meaning to be flattened vertically, often referring to a plant's habit

## NVS CODE

GAUDVD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22



Mt Burns, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Craigieburn Range. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 09/12/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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 MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gaultheria-depressa-var-depressa/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026