

# Gaultheria macrostigma

## COMMON NAMES

prostrate snowberry

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low-growing sprawling tangled dark green or brownish shrub bearing narrow leathery leaves inhabiting upland areas. Twigs with bristle-like hairs. Leaves 6-15mm long by 1-3mm wide, with several prominent teeth on margin. Flowers white or pinkish, bell-shaped, clustered at tip of twigs. Fruit white to red, 6mm wide, lobed.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## GENUS

Gaultheria

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gaultheria macrostigma* (Colenso) D.J.Middleton

## SYNONYMS

*Pernettya macrostigma* Colenso, *Gaultheria depressa* var. *microphylla* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman

## 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.

**macrostigma:** With a large stigma



Mt Arthur. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 02/07/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Flowers, Hokonui Hills, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 04/12/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## NVS CODE

GAUMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## 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 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-macrostigma/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026