

# Gaultheria macrostigma

## COMMON NAME

prostrate snowberry

## SYNONYMS

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

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

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

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

GAUMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF 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

## LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by invertebrate frugivory (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.

**macrostigma:** With a large stigma

## 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



Flagstaff hill, Dunedin, December.

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



*Gaultheria macrostigma*, Chrystalls Beach.

Photographer: John Barkla

**MORE INFORMATION**

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