

Gaultheria rupestris

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy sprawling shrub bearing oval leathery toothed leaves on hairy twigs inhabiting mountains from the Rotorua area southwards. Hairs on twigs dark. Flowers white, bell-shaped, in occasionally-branched clusters to 8cm long at the tip of twigs. Leaves 20-35mm long by 6-10mm wide. Fruit a dry capsule.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

GENUS

Gaultheria

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Gaultheria rupestris (L.f.) D.Don

SYNONYMS

Gaultheria subcorymbosa Colenso, *Gaultheria rupestris* var. *subcorymbosa* (Colenso) B.L.Burt et A.W.Hill, *Gaultheria glandulosa* Colenso

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.

rupestris: From the Latin rupes 'rock, cliff', meaning growing in rocky places

NVS CODE

GAURUP



Very tall specimen. Burnt Spur, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Bark. Burnt Spur, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/09/2007, 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 At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, Sp 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-rupestris/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026