Gentianella concinna

COMMON NAMES
Auckland Island gentian

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

Enderby Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Plants monocarpic, probably biennial, height in flower 27–150 mm. Caudex unbranched. Flowering stems erect, terminal only or terminal and lateral with 1–4 flowering stems per plant, stems 0.7–3.4 mm diameter when dry, lateral flowering stems erect, flowering stem leaves 2–4 pairs per stem, lowest pedicels from halfway up flowering stem. Rosette of leaves distinct or not very distinct from flowering stem leaves; leaves narrowly elliptic, 15.0–32.0 mm × 3.7–8.0 mm wide, margin thickened, apex rounded, petiole indistinct, c. 10 mm long, 1.0–1.5(–2.5) mm wide at narrowest point. Pedicels 1 or 2 per leaf axil, 4.0–11.5 × 0.9–1.1 mm. Flowers 1–22 per plant, 10.5–12.0 mm long. Calyx 6.0–8.8 mm long; lobes 5.1–8.0 mm long, 2.0–2.3 mm wide at base, plane, apices acute or obtuse, margins minutely denticulate, hairs at calyx–corolla fusion line present, sinus hairs absent. Corolla 8.7–13.0 mm long, ranging from white to strongly coloured, with purple veins and/or with weak to strong red to purple tinting; tube 2.0–3.0 mm long; lobes 6.7–10.0 × 4.2–6.1 mm wide, hairs below sinus present or absent; nectary 1.2–1.5 mm from corolla base. Filaments 4.1–8.0 mm long from corolla base, 0.55–0.70 mm wide. Anthers 1.2–1.8 mm long. Stigma purple. Ovules 13–40 per ovary. Capsule 7.7–9.0 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA
Gentianella concinna differs from the only other species present on the Auckland Islands, G. cerina by its biennial growth habit; erect flowering stems; calyces that are 6.0–8.8 mm long, and calyx lobes that are not pandurate and which are rounded or acute at the apices, with the corolla longer than the calyx and with leaves which are 15.0–32.0 × 3.7–8.0 mm

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands

HABITAT
Coastal to alpine. In open turf land, tussock grasslands, forest and scrub and within on sedgeland developed along the summit fellfields

THREATS
A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted, island endemic. Abundant on the islands it is under no obvious threat. The Auckland Islands are administered as a Nature Reserve and are part of a World Heritage Park with access strictly controlled by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

GENUS
Gentianella

FAMILY
Gentianaceae

AUTHORITY
Gentianella concinna (Hook.f.) T.N.Ho et S.W.Liu

SYNONYMS
Gentiana concinna Hook.f., Gentiana cerina var. concinna (Hook.f.) Kirk, Chionogentias concinna (Hook.f.) L.G.Adams

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November – April

FRUITING
December - June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Seeds dispersed by ballistic projection, wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult to grow. Should not be removed from the wild

WHERE TO BUY
Not Commercially Available

ETYMOLOGY
gentianella: Little Gentiana (named after Gentius, 6th century king of Illyria, who found the roots of the yellow gentian to have a healing effect on his malaria-stricken troops)
concinna: Charming, elegant

NVS CODE
GENCON

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Glenny, D. 2004: A revision of the genus Gentianella in New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 42: 361-530.
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

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (October 2004). Description modified from Glenny (2004)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gentianella-concinna/

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