

# Geum albiflorum

## COMMON NAMES

Auckland Island geum, Auckalnd Island avens

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Leafy, silky-hairy, rosette forming herb. Leaves 2-3 cm long, orbicular-cordate (circular to heart-shaped) or reniform (shaped like a kidney), bright to dull green, minutely lobed or crenate-toothed, hairy and rough textured on undersides, silky hairy above. Lateral leaflets absent or if present minute. Inflorescence on a stout, downy, 6-12 cm tall stalk, bearing 1-3 toothed bracts. Flowers in racemes, or solitary and terminal, subtended by ovate bracteoles. Calyx tube open, silky, calyx-lobes narrow, ovate to subacute. Petals white, only just exceeding calyx, bilobed (retuse). Achenes (seeds) with a short stalk, ovate, compressed, copiously covered in silky hairs, style remnant shorter than achene, hooked.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically similar to *G. cockaynei*, a common species of the North and South Islands, which does not occur on the Auckland Islands. *G. albiflorum* differs from it by its smaller leaves, 3-5 flowered inflorescences, and by the styles which are shorter than the achenes.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Auckland Islands.

## HABITAT

On cliff faces and rock strewn ground, usually near high points.

## THREATS

*Geum albiflorum* is probably not threatened. However, because it is an island endemic restricted to a remote island archipelago, and it has not always been accepted as a distinct taxon, its abundance in the wild remains unknown. It is for this reason it has been listed as Data Deficient.

## GENUS

*Geum*

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Geum albiflorum* (Hook.f.) Scheutz



Among rocky outcrops, in tussock grassland, 350 M.A.S.L., north of the Hooker Hills, main Auckland Island, January 2023. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 14/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Among rocky outcrops, in tussock grassland, 350 M.A.S.L., north of the Hooker Hills, main Auckland Island, January 2023. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 14/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SYNONYMS

*Oncostylus albiflorus* (Hook.f.) F.Bolle; *Sieversia albiflora* Hook.f., *Geum aucklandicum* Greene, *G. sericeum* Kirk, *G. parviflorum* var. *albiflorum* (Hook.f) Allan.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

No information available

## FRUITING

No information available

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably difficult to grow without an alpine house. Fresh seed should germinate easily.

## ETYMOLOGY

**geum:** Possibly from the Greek *geuo* 'to give a pleasant flavour', the roots of some species being aromatic.

**albiflorum:** From Latin *albus* 'white' and *florus* 'flower'

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hooker, J.D. 1844: *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror in the Years 1839-1843*.1. Flora Antarctica Part I. Botany of Lord Auckland's Group and Campbell's Island ed. London., Reeve, Brothers. 208 p.

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 by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Hooker (1844)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geum-albiflorum/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026