

# Geum cockaynei

## COMMON NAME

Cockayne's geum

## SYNONYMS

Oncostylus cockaynei F.Bolle; New Zealand plants have been incorrectly referred to the South American *Geum parviflorum* Smith

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Geum cockaynei* (Bolle) Molloy et C.J.Webb

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

GEUCOC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 70$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands from the Raukumara Ranges south.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine grassland and herbfield. Damp tussock grassland and herbfield, rocky sites, stream banks



Hooker valley. December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect bronze-green, red-green or green herb up to 400 mm tall at flowering, arising from a stout, woody stock. Stock apex covered in long persistent, fibrous leaf remnants. Basal leaves up to 150 mm long, distinctly white-pilose, imparipinnate; lateral leaflets in up to 15 pairs, the lower minute but upper sometimes up to 15 mm long; terminal leaflet 10-70 mm long, crenate-dentate, serrate-crenate or occasionally obscurely lobed; cauline leaves few, often paired, oblong, toothed, sometimes very reduced, bracteate. Peduncle up to 400 mm tall, often arching in upper third. Inflorescence (1-)25(-30)-flowered. Flowers up to 10 mm diameter; calyx pubescent to pilose, lobes often deeply cut, 4-5 mm long, ovate, bracteoles minute, entire or bifurcate. Petals creamy white, 4-8-(10) mm long, ovate or obovate, claw margin often ciliate. Receptacle villous. Achenes numerous, flattened, stipitate, 1.5-1.8 mm long, densely pilose especially on margins, styles c.2.5 mm long, villous near achene, apex recurved.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all but *G. albiflorum* by the many-flowered inflorescences (up to 30 flowers per inflorescence), and by the petals which are 4-15 mm long. *Geum albiflorum* is an allopatric sister species confined to the Auckland Islands, and differs from *G. cockaynei* by the smaller leaves, 3-5 flowered inflorescences, and by the styles which are shorter than the achenes.

## FLOWERING

December – March

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

## FRUITING

December – April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in pots in an alpine house, and in cooler climates within a rock garden. Best grown from fresh seed.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**cockaynei**: Named after Leonard Cockayne FRS (7 April 1855 - 8 July 1934) who is regarded as New Zealand's greatest botanist and a founder of modern science in New Zealand

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

A species complex comprising of at least a further two as yet unnamed species.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description based on herbarium specimens and both Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington

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

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

## MORE INFORMATION

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