

Geranium microphyllum

SYNONYMS

None.

FAMILY

Geraniaceae

AUTHORITY

Geranium microphyllum Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

GERMIC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52-56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

A species of sub Antarctic herbfields and turfs.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb arising from a stout, thick somewhat woody taproot. All parts covered in soft backward or forward projecting appressed hairs. **Stems** slender, prostrate, with few to many branches. **Basal leaves** not persistent for duration of growing season, **Leaf stalks (petioles)** up to 17 cm long. **Lamina** 4 cm diameter, kidney-shaped to circular or broadly ovate, deeply lobed, almost to midrib, sometimes more shallowly divided. **Lobes** 3–5, narrow to broadly obovate or oblong, apex rounded or shortly spine-tipped (mucronate). **Stem leaves** smaller, with fewer lobes. **Flower stalks (peduncles)** 1–6–(9) cm long. **Flowers** 1–2. **Sepals** 3–5–(6) × 0.8–2–(2.5) mm, lanceolate or elliptic-oblong, purple or with a purple marginal line. **Petals** white, (4)–6–(9) × 2.5–4.5 mm, broadly obovate. **Seed** 1.5–1.9 mm long, oblong.



Geranium microphyllum, Campbell Island.
Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken:
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Geranium microphyllum flower, Campbell Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 11/02/2014, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Geranium microphyllum s.s. is the only *Geranium* species found on the Subantarctic islands, so it is unlikely to be confused with any other species in the field. Other mainland plants referred to this species are believed to be examples of one or more distinct, and possibly unnamed species (B.P.J. Molloy pers. comm.).

FLOWERING

October–February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

No information available

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by wind, ballistic projection and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from seed. Plants are short-lived but readily set seed.

THREATS

Geranium microphyllum s.s. is only known from the sub Antarctic islands. It is rarely collected.

ETYMOLOGY

geranium: From the Greek geranos 'crane', the fruit of the plant resembling the head and beak of this bird, hence the common name cranesbill.

microphyllum: Small leaf

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geranium-microphyllum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geranium-microphyllum/>

PDF DATE

27 September 2024