

Celmisia inaccessa

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1971)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia inaccessa Given

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELINA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Fiordland National Park in scattered localities between Caswell and Thompson Sounds and inland to Lake Te Anau

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. Forming mats on steep, damp, rocky bluffs. Favouring base-rich rocks, especially marble and limestone.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling subshrub arising from a multicapital stock and forming mats up to 2 m diameter. Branchlets stout, c. 5 mm diameter, clad in leaf remains and emitting cord-like roots along most of length. Living leaves in rosulate tufts at branchlet tips. Lamina 20-60 × 10-20 mm, oblanceolate, light green sometimes glaucous, tip subacute, base tapering gradually into sheath, margin finely dentate; lower and upper surfaces glabrous except for a narrow and sometimes inconspicuous band of deciduous white hairs along the margin; midrib and one to two pairs of lateral veins prominent. Sheath membranous and glabrous, broad. Scape glandular, sometimes with a few deciduous eglandular hairs in lower part, stout, 120-200 × 2-3 mm; bracts many, foliaceous, glandular, oblanceolate to oblong, midrib and one pair of lateral veins prominent. Receptacle subglobose, c.15 mm diameter. Involucral bracts in several series, loosely imbricate, up to 15 mm long, subulate, acuminate, slightly recurved, densely clothed in stalked glandular hairs, margins fimbriate towards tip. Ray florets up to 25 mm long, limb wide, tube with stalked glandular hairs. In disc florets, corolla tube clad in biseriate eglandular hairs of clavate form. Pappus bristles unequal, up to 7 mm long, 20-30 in number, teeth close and short. Achene 2.5-3.5 × 1.0 mm, compressed, densely clad in long bifid hairs.

SIMILAR TAXA

Somewhat similar to *Celmisia sinclairii* and *C. prorepens*, species with which it does not grow, and from both of which it differs in leaf lamina colour, shape and venation, by having a narrow band of deciduous white hairs on the lamina margin; by the large bracts on the scape and by the distinctly erect involucral bracts

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown from fresh seed but requires a shaded, permanently moist situation. Does best in a soil that has been enriched in lime, and should be grown amongst limestone or marble rocks

THREATS

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened

ETYMOLOGY

celmisia: Apparently named after Kelmis, one of Idaean Dactyls, a group of skilled mythical beings associated with the Mother Goddess Rhea in Greek mythology. Kelmis, whose name means 'casting', was a blacksmith and childhood friend of Zeus, son of Rhea and later king of the gods. In Ovid's 'Metamorphoses', Kelmis is described as offending Zeus who turned him into adamant so he was as hard as a tempered blade

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1971)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1971: Two New Species of *Celmisia* Cass. (Compositae-Astereae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 9: 526-532

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-inaccessa/>