Celmisia major var. brevis

COMMON NAME

Egmont mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1961)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia major var. brevis Allan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular - Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELMVB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk - Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL 2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL 2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Mt Egmont (Taranaki).

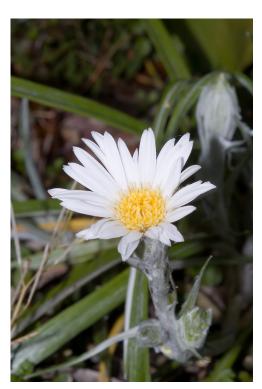
HABITAT

Subalpine and alpine herbfield.





Manganui, Mt Taranaki (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/11/2005, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb with tufted leaves arising from simple to multicipital stock, pseudo-stem ± 300 mm long. Lamina 100-150 × 5-16 mm; narrow-linear tapering regularly from sheath to acute apex, coriaceous; upper surface dark silvery green to grey-green clad in thin pellicle (thicker towards base), sulcate; lower densely clad in silvery white satiny appressed tomentum, midrib evident; margins distinctly recurved. Sheath pale, thin, c. 30 mm long, nerves evident, margins ± densely clad in floccose hairs in upper part. Scape stout up to ± 200 mm long, pellicled to subfloccose; bracts ascending, lamina almost filiform up to 25 mm long, tomentum as in leaves; uppermost bracts on weakly developed into a pseudo-involucre. Capitula 20-40 mm diameter; involucral bracts linear-subulate acuminate, ciliate, glabrous on surfaces, 8.9-10.8 mm long with dark apices. Ray-florets numerous, up to 13 mm long, tube very slender, limb gradually widening to apex. Disk-florets narrow-funnelform, c. 7 mm long, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, grooved, glab. or very nearly so, c. 6-7 mm long. Pappus-hairs white, very slender, hardly barbellate, up to 7 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Part of a widespread complex of ill-resolved taxa that seem to grade between *Celmisia graclienta* at one end and *C. graminifolia* at the other. *Celmisia graclienta* var. *brevis* differs from var. *major* by its smaller over all size, more open and more weakly developed pseudo-involucre, and its restriction to subalpine and alpine habitats on Mt Egmont. See comments for *Celmisia adamsii* var. adamsii, *C. adamsii* var. *rugulosa* and *C. major* var. *major*.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. One of the few *Celmisia* that adapts well to cultivation. Does best in a semi-shaded site in a moist, free draining soil. Dislikes humidity and inclined to be short-lived.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted plant that is abundant within its only known location of Mt Egmont National Park.

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

major: Greater brevis: Short

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2009). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-major-var-brevis/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-major-var-brevis/