

Celmisia parva

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia parva Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELPAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: westerly from North-West Nelson to about the Paparoa Range

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine. Inhabiting poorly drained ground in shrubland, pakihi, grassland, herbfield, and around rock outcrops



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small branching herb hugging ground in small patches; leaves spreading, rosulate at tips of branchlets. Lamina submembranous, $\pm 10\text{-}30 \times 3\text{-}10$ mm; linear- to oblong-lanceolate to narrow-oblong; upper surface glabrous or nearly so, midrib and usually main veins evident; lower surface densely clad in appressed soft to satiny white hairs, midrib usually distinct; apex subacute, apiculate; margins slightly recurved, minutely distantly denticulate, cuneately narrowed to slender petiole up to 20 mm long; sheath membranous, \pm = lamina. Scape almost filiform, glabrous or with a few spreading hairs, $\pm 40\text{-}100$ mm long; bracts almost filiform, with widened bases, few (sometimes absent), lowermost up to c. 10 mm long. Capitula $\pm 10\text{-}15$ mm diameter; involucral bracts linear-subulate, acute to acuminate, apiculate, scarious, midrib distinct. Rays-florets up to c. 8 mm. long, white, linear, teeth very narrow-triangular; disk-florets 4-5 mm long, \pm glandular at base, teeth triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, 1-2 mm long, glabrous or nearly so (in some forms with stiff hairs on obscure ribs). Pappus-hairs up to 4-5 mm long, very slender, sordid-white, very minutely barbellate

SIMILAR TAXA

Readily recognised by the slender, much branched, creeping and freely rooting stems. Plants form compact patches or mats and the leaves are arranged in small, rosulate clusters at the tips of the branchlets. *Celmisia parva* is mostly likely to be confused with *C. bellidioides* and *C. thomsonii* which share a similar growth habit. It is distinguished from both species by the leaf undersides which are densely clad in thick, white tomentum. The leaf undersides of *Celmisia bellidioides* and *C. thomsonii* are either glabrous or sparsely hairy (with the hairs distinctly bristle-like)

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, acidic soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

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

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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

MORE INFORMATION

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