Celmisia adamsii var. adamsii

COMMON NAMES
Adams's Daisy

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Tufted herb with simple or sparingly branched stock, pseudo-stem up to ± 60 mm long. Lamina subcoriaceous, acute, often with fine apiculus, 90-400 × 10-30 mm, narrowly to broadly oblong-lanceolate to almost linear-oblong (diverse forms may occur on same plant); upper surface ± glabrous, dark green to yellow-green, with ± distinct thin pellicle, midrib broad, grooved, main veins prominent; lower clad in soft white appressed or subappressed tomentum, midrib prominent; margins distantly finely denticulate, narrowing to petiole up to c. 30 mm long; sheath ± 50 × 15 mm, dark green, sometimes tinged purple, veins evident, surface tomentum ± as in lamina, margins floccose. Scape 150-400 mm long, rather slender, often flexuous, ± flattened, ± clad in floccose tomentum. Bracts usually few, up to 10 mm long, lamina almost filiform. Capitula 30-50 mm diameter; involucral bracts, green to pale green, linear-subulate to narrow-lanceolate, c.12 mm long, margins ciliolate, midrib evident. Ray-florets numerous, up to 30 mm. long, tube slender; limb gradually widened to 4-toothed apex, veins distinct. Disk-florets 6.0-6.5 mm long, narrow-funnelform, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes glabrous, strongly ribbed, narrowly compressed-cylindric to very narrowly obovoid, ± 4 mm. long. Pappus-hairs sordid-white, up to 5 mm long, slender, finely barbellate.



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SIMILAR TAXA
When the range of variation in C. adamsii var. adamsii is considered critically var. rugulosa (said to differ by its shorter and stouter foliage) is scarcely any different. The main distinction between them appears to be the generally narrower leaves and more markedly silvery upper leaf pellicle of var. rugulosa. Celmisia adamsii var. rugulosa grades into C. major var. major which appears to be a linking form between the northerly C. adamsii var. rugulosa and more southerly var. adamsii. Critical study into these species is required, especially in relation to the type of C. graminifolia which is said to have come from the Bay of Islands, but more probably came from near Whangarei. The type of C. graminifolia seems indistinguishable from C. adamsii var. rugulosa (Dr P. J. de Lange pers. comm.).

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North Island: From Castle Rock (above Coromandel) south to the Kauaeranga Valley. Also Mt Pirongia (Hihikiwi and nearby high points)

HABITAT
Montane along river gorges, on steep-sided, shaded, sparsely vegetated slopes, rock outcrops, cliff faces and rock tors.

THREATS
A naturally uncommon, narrow range endemic that is locally common in parts of its Coromandel Peninsula range. Some populations have been damaged by tracking and illegal plant collection but most are secure. On Mt Pirongia it is very uncommon and seems to be dying out as denser vegetation colonises the formerly open rock outcrops it grew on. This vegetation shift is due to intensive goat and deer control on that mountain which has helped restore the natural cloud forest vegetation but ironically at the expense of some unusual occurrences of small, montane often herbaceous plants like this Celmisia.

GENUS
Celmisia

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Celmisia adamsii Cheeseman var. adamsii

SYNONYMS
None (described in 1895)

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
September - April

FRUITING
October - July

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.

CULTIVATION
Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries**.**

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
adamsii: Named for James Adams (1839-1906) an exceptional amateur botanist who established the Thames High School. In 1906 he died suddenly whilst still the headmaster of the high school. He is buried in the Tararu Cemetery, Thames. James Adams was a friend of the first Auckland Museum Director Thomas Cheeseman whom he often accompanied in the field. Cheeseman commemorated Adams contributions to New Zealand Botany with the species Brachyglottis adamsii, Celmisia adamsii, and Trilepidea adamsii. His granddaughter was Jacqueline Nancy Adams (1926-2007) botanical illustrator, artist, botanist and phycologist whose name is also commemorated by a number of marine seaweeds.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to Celmisia in New Zealand

NVS CODE
CELAVA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.
de Lange, P.J. 1994. *Celmisia*on Mt Pirongia Western Waikato some notes on its identity and taxonomy. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 49: 74-76.

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted from Allan (1961) and de Lange (1994)
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-adamsii-var-adamsii/

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