

Celmisia adamsii var. adamsii

COMMON NAME

Adams's Daisy

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1895)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia adamsii Cheeseman var. *adamsii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELAVA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

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.



Castle Rock. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Castle Rock. November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted herb with simple or sparingly branched stock, pseudo-stem up to ± 60 mm long. Lamina subcoriaceous, acute, often with fine apiculus, $90\text{--}400 \times 10\text{--}30$ mm, narrowly to broadly oblong-lanceolate to almost linear-oblong (diverse forms may occur on same plant); upper surface \pm glabrous, dark green to yellow-green, with \pm 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 $\pm 50 \times 15$ mm, dark green, sometimes tinged purple, veins evident, surface tomentum \pm as in lamina, margins floccose. Scape 150–400 mm long, rather slender, often flexuous, \pm flattened, \pm clad in floccose tomentum. Bracts usually few, up to 10 mm long, lamina almost filiform. Capitula 30–50 mm diameter; involucre bracts, green to pale green, linear-subulate to narrow-lanceolate, c.12 mm long, margins ciliate, 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.

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.).

FLOWERING

September – April

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

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.

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*.

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.

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961) and de Lange (1994)

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-adamsii-var-adamsii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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