Celmisia bonplandii

COMMON NAMES
mountain daisy

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stout, usually sparingly branched low-growing subshrub forming loose patches up to 2 m diameter; branches long-clad in reflexed leaves; living leaves viscid, aggregated in ± rosulate tufts at tips of branchlets. Lamina coriaceous, 40-100 × 15-30 mm, elliptic-obovate to elliptic-oblong to obovate; upper surface glabrous, ± lustrous, midrib ± evident; lower surface clad in closely appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib dark, prominent. Apex subacute to obtuse, sometimes apiculate; margins sinuate, sometimes distantly denticulate, cuneately narrowed to broad petiole up to c. 10 mm long. Sheath submembranous, glabrous, 20-30 × 15-20 mm, veins prominent. Scape rather stout, ± compressed, glabrescent ± glandular, ± 150-300 mm long. Bracts several, linear-subulate, lowermost up to c.25 mm long, ± floccose at junction with sheath. Capitula c.30-50 mm diameter; involucral bracts up to c.11 mm long, thin, pale, glabrous or nearly so in lower ½, pilose and ciliate in upper ½, glandular towards apex. Ray-florets linear, up to c.15 mm. long, widening to 5-toothed apex; disk-florets 7-8 mm. long, ± cylindric, widening to 5-toothed mouth. Anthers without tails. Achenes cylindric, 2.5-3.0 mm long, with sparse hairs on ribs, sometimes papillose. Pappus-hairs sordid-white, slender, ± 6.5 mm long, very obscurely barbellate



South Westland. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 02/01/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



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SIMILAR TAXA
Closely related to Celmisia lindsayi, a south-eastern South Island coastal species with which C. bonplandii is regarded by many botanists as conspecific. Pending further investigation both species are maintained as distinct here. Celmisia bonplandii differs from C. lindsayi by its restriction to subalpine and alpine habitats, smaller, wider leaves (40-100 x 15-30 mm cf. 100-150 x 15-25 mm in C. lindsayi); longer, stouter, glabrescent scapes (150-300mm cf. 50-200 mm in C. lindsayi), and mostly shorter achenes (2.5-3.0 mm cf. 3.0-4.0 mm in C. lindsayi).

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island: From Otago south and westwards becoming most common in western Otago, Fiordland and western Southland.

HABITAT
Mostly subalpine to alpine. A species of high rain fall areas, evidently preferring shaded sites in rocky places such as amongst boulderfalls and on cliff faces. Also in damp sites in grassland, fellfield. Sometimes found in avalanche debris along forest margins

GENUS
Celmisia

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Celmisia bonplandii (Buchanan) Allan

SYNONYMS
Erigeron bonplandii Buchanan

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October - March

FRUITING
November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Best grown from fresh seed. Can be grown by dividing established plants. Does best in a shaded site planted within a permanently moist, free draining soil. More easily grown in the southern part of New Zealand

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

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to Celmisia in New Zealand

NVS CODE
CELBON

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NS, NStr, Sp, TL
Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-bonplandii/

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