

Celmisia clavata

COMMON NAME

Stewart Island silver cushion daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia clavata G.Simpson et G.Thomson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELCLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island:

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine, in peat bogs, mires and poorly draining herbfield and fellfield.



Mt Rakeahua, Stewart Island/Rakiura.
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken:
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely branched, semi-woody, subshrub forming small forming loose patches, cushions or mats up to 700 × 100 mm; branches up to 400 mm long, clothed with persistent leaf-remnants, rebranching closely at the tips; branchlets, densely leafy 30 × 10 mm, clavate, rounded at the tips. Leaves erect, extremely rigid, and closely imbricating, ascending; lamina 5-7 × 1 mm, linear-subulate, coriaceous, irregularly thickened and ridged on both sides, distinctly broadening toward apex before abruptly and bluntly narrowing to an obtuse tip clad on both surfaces in a fine silky, silvery appressed tomentum, apex. Sheath 7.0-9.0 × 1.0-1.8 mm, membranous, hyaline, mostly pale brown, apex purple, floccose, with dense web or tuft of silky hairs at leaf-sheath junction. Capitula 15 mm diameter, sessile to subsessile, terminal and solitary, sunken amongst apical leaves; involucre bracts 23-28, 8-10 mm long, subequal, linear-lanceolate, scarious, pale except at dark tip membranous, apex surmounted by a tuft of silky hairs. Ray-florets 6-8 mm long, white; tube slender, limb lanceolate, 3-toothed, veins evident. Disk-florets 5.8-6.0 mm long, yellow, very narrow-funnelform, teeth minute, triangular. Achenes 2.6-3.0 mm long, narrow-cylindric, subcompressed, ± evenly clad in silky, antrorse hairs (especially along ribs and toward apices). Pappus-hairs 5.2-6.0 mm long, off-white, slender, finely barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Celmisia argentea* by the semi-woody and densely leafy clavate branches, and by the erect, rigid, closely imbricating leaves with abruptly narrowed, obtuse apices. *Celmisia clavata* is considered by many New Zealand botanists as part of the natural variation within *C. argentea*. Because of this interpretation its exact distribution is unknown. As treated here, *C. clavata* is a Stewart island endemic but similar forms occur in Central Otago where they grow with and appear to intergrade with *C. argentea*. As with most *Celmisia* taxonomic delimitation is unclear and further study, perhaps using appropriate discriminating DNA markers is probably necessary to resolve the status of this species.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed but can be grown from cuttings. Should be planted in a free draining, moist soil. Excellent in a pot in an alpine house, or planted in a south-facing rockery. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened

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

clavata: From the Latin clavatus 'club-shaped'

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on herbarium specimens

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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(4): 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION

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