

# Celmisia discolor

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## DISTRIBUTION

Widespread in mountainous regions of the sub-alpine to low alpine parts of South Island (from 1000 to 1700m) although it is rare or absent from the dry eastern regions and south of Canterbury.

## GENUS

Celmisia

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia discolor* Hook. f.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ETYMOLOGY

**celmisia:** Apparently named after Kelmis, one of Idaeian 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

**discolor:** Two colours or of different colours; from the latin dis and color; different colours of the leaf surfaces

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

## NVS CODE

CELDIS

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, Sp 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.



Bealey Valley. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Bealey Valley. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

**MORE INFORMATION**

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

**PDF DATE**

25 May 2026