

Celmisia dubia

COMMON NAMES

mountain daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a simple or multicapital stock, usually hidden below ground; living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming an irregular patch of one to several rosettes; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina (2.3)-8-(15) x (0.7)-1.6-(3) cm, subcoriaceous, erect when young but becoming patent (especially in small plants from exposed sites); upper surface usually sulcate, concolorous, sometimes slightly bronzed, covered by a thick lead-coloured dull pellicle; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent, often purple; tip acute; margins entire or with fine distinct teeth, often recurved; base narrowed to a distinct petiole up to 3 cm long. Sheath up to 6 x 1.5 cm, purple, glabrate. Scape purple, sparsely clad in floccose white hairs, often slender, up to 25 cm long; bracts several, erect, up to 4 cm long, margins revolute; monocephalous. Ray florets 20-60, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets 20-80, c. 6 mm long, funneliform, yellow, long eglandular biseriate hairs along most of tube. Achene fusiform to obovoid, strongly grooved, 2.5- 6 mm long, glabrous or with numerous bifid hairs. Pappus unequal, 4-7 mm long, of c. 30 barbellate bristles.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Celmisia insignis*, *C. monroi*, *C. morganii* and *C. semicordata*., from which species it differs by the combination of having erect or openly spreading but more or less flat leaves that are > 20 mm wide, up to 150 mm long, and with a dull leaden pellicle, and by possessing a distinct petiole and purple (rarely greenish) sheath.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson (Boulder Lake and Goulard Downs area, south to Mount Rochfort near Westport, Stockton and Denniston, and the southern Paparoa Range (Mount Watson, Mount Davy).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. A species of impoverished or infertile skeletal soils. Commonly found in rock crevices, fellfield, or on very thin, infertile soils, also in sparse grassland. *Celmisia dubia* is the dominant *Celmisia* associated with the impoverished, water saturated, thin soils developed on quartzites overlying coal measures.

GENUS

Celmisia



Mt Rochfort, Ngakawau ED, North Westland.
Photographer: Jane Marshall, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Denniston Plateau. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 13/11/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia dubia Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

Celmisia coriacea var. *lancifolia* Cheeseman

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - February

FRUITING

November - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, acidic soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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

CELDUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1980: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia coriacea* (Forst.f.) Hook.f. and its immediate allies (Astereae-Compositae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 127-140.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1980)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026