

Celmisia durietzii

COMMON NAMES

Durietz's 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

Robust subshrub with stout simple to multicapital stock; branches $\pm$ arcuate, clad in persistent imbricate leaf-remnants; living leaves rosulate, spreading, at tips of branchlets. Lamina $\pm 30\text{--}60 \times 7\text{--}10$ mm, narrow-elliptic, elliptic-obovate to subspathulate (often varying on same plant), subcoriaceous; upper surface glabrous, usually with deciduous pellicle when young (in some forms clad in soft white tomentum); lower densely clad in white appressed silky soft hairs, midrib evident; apex obtuse to subacute; margins minutely obscurely denticulate, gradually narrowed to rather slender petiole up to ± 30 mm long. Sheath translucent, glabrous, $\pm 25 \times 5$ mm, longitudinal veins prominent. Scape stiff, rather stout, finely ribbed, glabrous or nearly so, ± 200 mm long; lower bracts tomentose below, up to c.30 mm long (lowest often foliaceous), upper less hairy below, midrib evident. Capitula 30–40 mm diameter; involucre bracts $\pm$ reflexed, glandular-pubescent, up to 12 mm long, linear, subcoriaceous, midrib distinct, margins pilose, apical part with tuft of floccose hairs. Ray-florets c.15 mm long, white, tube almost filiform, limb narrow-obovate, c.3 mm broad. Disk-florets numerous, slender, tubular, only slightly flaring, 6–7 mm long, teeth minute, narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, $\pm 5\text{--}6$ mm long, densely clad in fine silky subappressed hairs. Pappus-hairs very slender, white, up to c.7 mm. long, hardly barbellate

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Celmisia haastii*, *C. cockayneana*, *C. lindsayi* and *C. bonplandii* from which it differs by the leaves which are 30–60 x 70–100 mm, translucent, glabrous sheath (25–40 x 5 mm) and achenes which are evenly covered in silky hairs. Ecologically *C. lindsayi* is a coastal species, while *C. bonplandii* prefers wetter habitats. Both *C. lindsayi* and *C. bonplandii* have much wider leaves, and seeds that are sparsely hairy. *Celmisia cockayneana* has longer, wider leaves and is confined to Marlborough, while *C. haastii* has glabrous seeds, longer and wider leaves, and a yellowish-green sheath. Stewart Island plants treated as *C. durietzii* by Allan (1961) and those from Fiordland appear to be an allied but as yet unnamed species.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Marlborough south. Stewart Island plants included here by Allan (1961) appear to be an allied but as yet undescribed species endemic to that island.

HABITAT

Montane to alpine grassland, herbfield, and fellfield. Sometimes rupestral on rock outcrops and tors.



Routeburn, Fiordland. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Franklin Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 15/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Celmisia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia durietzii Cockayne & Allan

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - March

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and hardwood cuttings. Reasonably easy to grow but dislikes humidity and cannot tolerate drying out. Best grown in a rockery or within a pot in an alpine house.

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

CELDUR

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 Not Threatened 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, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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