

Celmisia gibbsii

COMMON NAME

Gibbs's mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia gibbsii Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELGIB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson (Kahurangi National Park - Mount Cobb, Waingaro Peak, Mount Lockett, Mount Zetland)

HABITAT

Alpine in moist rocky places and fellfield:



Flowering at Mt Domett, Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Simon Walls



Flowering at Mt Domett, Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Simon Walls

FEATURES

Small shrublet with sparingly branched woody stems. Leaves numerous, closely imbricate along ascending branchlets. Lamina 10.0-20.0 × 2.0-3.5 mm, spreading from sheathing base, finally reflexed, linear-lanceolate, coriaceous, midrib impressed above, prominent below; upper surface glabrous, rather pale green; lower surface with rather sparse minute deciduous scurfy scales; apex thickened, obtuse to subacute; base hardly widened to membranous sheath bearing scurfy scales; margins thick, revolute almost to midrib. Scape ± 40-60 mm long, slender, sparsely clad in scurfy scales; bracts numerous, lamina linear-oblong, ± 4 mm long, sheath ± 3 mm long, appressed. Capitula 20-25 diameter; involucre bracts narrow-oblong, obtuse to subacute, ascending to patent, sometimes with tuft of hairs at tip, widened at base, up to c.7 mm long. Ray florets numerous, elliptic-oblong, 3-5-toothed, up to 15 mm long, bearing a few appressed hairs. Disk-florets tubular-funnelform, up to ± 6 mm long. Achenes c.2 mm long, narrow-cylindric, ribs with sparse stiff hairs. Pappus-hairs white, up to 5.5 mm long, very finely barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Celmisia brevifolia* from which it differs by its linear to lanceolate (rather than oblong to obovate-oblong) narrower leaves (up to 5 mm cf. 6-9 mm wide) with a narrowly obtuse, acute to acuminate leaf apex. The undersides of the leaves and the scapes of *C. gibbsii* are clad in scurfy scales.

FLOWERING

October - January

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best raised from fresh seed and grown in an alpine house.

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

gibbsii: Named in honor of Frederick G Gibbs (1866-1953)

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

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