

Celmisia glabrescens

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Assessed

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

SIMILAR TAXA

Celmisia glabrescens is superficially similar to *Celmisia durietzii* and Allan (1961) aligned it with *C. prorepens* and *C. densiflora* on account of its stoloniferous growth habit

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. Stewart island - known only from the type collection a suite of specimens gathered from the mouth of the Freshwater River, Patterson's Inlet (Petrie 1915; Allan 1961)

HABITAT

Collected from 'meadows' bordering a river growing in 'sandy soil' (Petrie 1815)

THREATS

Celmisia glabrescens was not assessed by the last indigenous vascular plant threat listing panel (de Lange et al. 2013). Based on current information it probably merits listing as 'Taxonomically Indeterminate / Data Deficient'.

GENUS

Celmisia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia glabrescens Petrie

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Celmisia glabrescens is known only from the type collection. Although accepted by Allan (1961) it was not treated in the subsequent vegetation and flora accounts of Stewart Island (see Wilson 1987), and Druce (1993) in his unpublished indigenous vascular plant checklist records this species as 'doubtful'. For this reason this species has been overlooked by the NZPCN listings. It is reinstated here if only because no formal taxonomic publication discussing its status has been published since it was described by Petrie (1915) and accepted by Allan (1961). This species highlights a key issue, which is that as a genus *Celmisia* is in critical need of a comprehensive, modern taxonomic revision.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



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

glabrescens: Becoming hairless

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R.; Champion, P.D.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Norton, D.A.; Hitchmough, R.A. 2013: Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2012. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 3*. Department of Conservation, Wellington.

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Petrie, D. 1915: Descriptions of New Native Phanerogams, with other Short Notices. *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute 47*: 48-59.

Wilson, H.D. 1987:vascular plants of Stewart Island (New Zealand). *New Zealand Journal of Botany Supplement*: 81-131

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 2 January 2014.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026