

# Celmisia haastii var. tomentosa

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather stout low-growing branching whitish-green subshrub forming small to large patches; branchlets ascending to erect, lower parts covered by leaf remnants, upper part obscured by rosette-leaves. Lamina 25-80 × 10-28 mm, broadly elliptic-oblong to obovate-spathulate, subcoriaceous to coriaceous; upper surface, usually longitudinally furrowed, white clad in chartaceous tomentum, this peeling with age as a pellicle; lower surface clad in closely appressed ± satiny tomentum, midrib tomentose but ± evident; apex obtuse to subacute; margins slightly recurved, very minutely distantly denticulate, cuneately narrowed to winged petiole c. 5 mm long. Sheath delicate, pale yellowish green, ± 20-30 × 5 mm; veins evident. Scape c. 50-150 mm long, densely tomentose to almost glabrous, rather stout to slender; bracts several or numerous, linear-subulate, acute to subacute, up to c. 2 mm long or more. Capitula 25-40 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear-lanceolate, membranous, softly hairy without, up to c. 12 mm long. Ray florets 15-20 mm long; limb narrow-oblong to narrow obovate-oblong, 3-5 toothed. Disk-florets funnelform, shortly 5-toothed, 6-8 mm long. Achenes narrow-cylindric, glabrous, 3-4 mm long. Pappus-hairs up to 5-6 mm long, very finely barbellate

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Celmisia haastii* var. *haastii* by the whitish-green coloured leaves, whose upper surface is finely clad in short, stiff hairs. As the leaf matures these peel off as a pellicle.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Otago, Rock & Pillar Range

## HABITAT

Alpine. On the margins of flushes and within seepages below snow banks.

## THREATS

Not Threatened - but as an apparently narrow range endemic it probably should be listed as Naturally Uncommon.

## GENUS

*Celmisia*

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia haastii* var. *tomentosa* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson



Rock and Pillar Range; abaxial leaf.  
Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 20/04/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Rock and Pillar Range. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 20/04/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FRUITING

December - March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed. Dislikes humidity.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**haastii**: Honours the New Zealand geologist and botanist Sir Julius von Haast (1822-87)

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to \*Celmisia\* in New Zealand](#)

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: NS, NStr, RE, RR, St, TL 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013). Description adapted from: Allan, H. H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-haastii-var-tomentosa/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-haastii-var-tomentosa/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026