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; involucral 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



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.

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

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 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
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
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The 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.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-haastii-var-tomentosa/

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