

Celmisia hectorii

COMMON NAME

Hector's daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia hectorii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELHEC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

South Island Endemic: from about Canterbury south

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine grassland, herbfield and rocky places

FEATURES

Stout much-branched subshrub forming low patches up to 1.8 m diameter; stems woody, \pm 5 mm diameter; branches clad in leaf-remnants, branchlets \pm close-set bearing leaf-rosettes. Lamina linear-spathulate to spatulate-oblong or linear-obovate, coriaceous, 10-25 \times 3-10 mm; upper surface densely clad in appressed \pm scurfy white tomentum, sometimes separating as a pellicle; lower surface clad in appressed whitish satiny tomentum; apex obtuse to subacute, often apiculate; margins entire or nearly so, slightly recurved, gradually narrowed nearly to base, then widening into thinly coriaceous, glabrous sheath c.5 mm long. Scape rather stout, 40-100 mm long, densely clad in floccose hairs. Bracts numerous, linear, up to 10 mm long, tomentose. Capitula 20-30 mm diameter; involucral bracts linear-subulate, obtuse to subacute, up to c.12 mm long, clad in spreading hairs, especially marginally. Ray-florets c. 15 mm long, white; limb elliptic-oblong, 3-toothed. Disk-florets 8-9 mm. long, narrow-funnelform; teeth becoming reflexed, narrow-triangular. Achenes 2.5-3.0 mm long, cylindrical; hairs few to many on ribs, ascending. Pappus-hairs up to 6 mm long, white, minutely barbellate.



Gertrude saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Hector Mountains. Photographer: John Barkla

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the linear-spathulate to spathulate-oblong or linear-obovate leaves which are white-hairy above and below. The leaf shape readily separates from the much wider leaved superficially similar *Celmisia iincana*

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

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.

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

hectorii: Named after Sir James Hector, 19th century New Zealand geologist and botanist who was originally from Scotland

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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-hectorii/>