

# Celmisia hieraciifolia var. gracilis

## COMMON NAMES

mountain daisy

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium tufted herb, stock usually simple, pseudo-stem  $\pm$  40 mm long.

**Lamina** coriaceous, c. 15–25  $\times$  2–4 mm; linear to very narrow-obovate; upper surface glabrous, sometimes slightly viscid, pale green when fresh; lower densely clad in closely appressed satiny pale yellow to buff or almost white tomentum, nerves conspicuous in lower part; subobtuse to obtuse, sometimes apiculate; margins entire or nearly so, teeth usually with distinct apiculus, slightly narrowed to broad grooved short petiole or directly into glabrous sheath c. 20  $\times$  10 mm. **Scape** slender, up to 120 mm long, glandular-pubescent. **Bracts** linear to subulate, glandular-pubescent, lower up to 40 mm long. **Capitula** 20–30 mm diameter; involucral bracts  $\pm$  13 mm long, outer densely glandular-pubescent, linear-subulate, acute, midrib distinct, margins sometimes  $\pm$  floccose.

**Ray-florets** numerous, c. 12 mm long, white, tube slender, limb narrow-linear. **Disk-florets** c. 7 mm long, tubular to narrow-funnelform, teeth narrow-triangular. **Achenes** c. 5 mm long, strongly ribbed, cylindric to subfusiform; hairs usually few, weak. **Pappus-hairs** white to sordid-white, slender, up to c. 6 mm long, finely barbellate.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Mount Hope, Ben Nevis, Mount Murchison).

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in grassland, herbfield, fellfield and debris slopes.

## GENUS

Celmisia

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia hieraciifolia* var. *gracilis* Allan

## SYNONYMS

None

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

The status of the three varieties of *C. hieraciifolia* needs critical investigation.



Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 24/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Cobb Valley. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 23/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October–January

## FRUITING

November–April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably best grown from fresh seed and like many *Celmisia* this species will probably dislike high humidity and drying out.

## 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

**hieraciifolia**: Having foliage like Hieracium (genus name from the word for hawk)

**gracilis**: Slender

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Data Deficient

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-hieraciifolia-var-gracilis/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026