

Celmisia holosericea

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia holosericea (G.Forst.) Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELHOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Fiordland

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland to lower subalpine rocky places, grassland, herb-field

FEATURES

Large tufted herb with leaves all radical, sheaths imbricate around stout stem. Lamina 120-300 × 25-65 mm, coriaceous, oblong-to elliptic-lanceolate; upper surface glabrous; lower surface densely clad in closely appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib prominent, dark; apex acute to subacuminate, usually distinctly apiculate; margins flat, rather distantly denticulate, narrowed to base or very short broad petiole. Sheath ± 40 × 15 mm, coriaceous, glabrous, ribbed. Scape stout to rather slender, angled or flattened, ± 180-600 mm long. Bracts linear-subulate, c. 25-35 mm long (outer up to 50 mm). Capitula 50-70 mm diameter, subtending bracts similar to upper scape-bracts. Involucral bracts 10-25 mm long; inner narrow, glabrous, glandular-pubescent; outer broader, lanceolate, tomentose without. Ray-florets numerous, c. 25 mm long, narrow; limb gradually widening to obtuse 3-toothed apex. Disk-florets tubular to funnelform, c. 7-8 mm long. Achenes 5-6 mm long, obovoid-compressed to subfusiform, densely clad in short ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs c. 5-7 mm long, white to sordid-white, becoming rufous



Borland road, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Hunter Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown from fresh seed but requires a shaded, permanently moist situation.

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

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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-holosericea/>