

# 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

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland).

## HABITAT

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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hunter Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## 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 HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.  
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-holosericea/>