

Celmisia lateralis

COMMON NAME

shrub daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia lateralis Buchanan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELLAT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson to North Westland (Paparoa Range).

HABITAT

Upper montane to subalpine. In rocky places, grassland, herbfield and fellfield

FEATURES

Prostrate or scrambling subshrub up to 300 × 100 mm, with slender branched stems up to 400 mm long; branchlets usually close-set. Leaves numerous, densely imbricate, ascending, incurved at tips but becoming reflexed. Lamina 6.0-12.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm; linear, grading into sheath, coriaceous; upper surface glabrous, ± glandular; lower surface similar; apex acuminate to obtuse; ± glandular-pubescent; sheath 2-3 mm long, membranous, with a few ± appressed hairs at base. Scape slender, 40-80 mm long, glandular-pubescent, with or without floccose hairs; bracts similar to leaves, up to 10 mm long. Capitula 10-20 mm diameter; involucre bracts 2-seriate, subulate-lanceolate to narrow-oblong, acute, up to 8 mm long, glandular, hairs ± floccose. Ray-florets c.10 mm long, white, linear, abruptly expanded towards 3-5-toothed apex; disk-florets tubular, slightly > pappus. Achenes narrow-cylindric, compressed, 2-3 mm long, ribs with long ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs sordid-white, very slender to filiform, finely barbellate, up to c.5 mm long



Mt Robert. January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Habit; Denniston Plateau.

SIMILAR TAXA

One of a small group of subshrub *Celmisia* which includes *C. brevifolia*, *C. gibbsii*, *C. rupestris*, *C. ramulosa* and *C. walkeri*. From these species *C. lateralis* is distinguished by more or less viscid leaves whose undersides are nearly glabrous or completely so.

FLOWERING

November - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed but can be grown from cuttings. Should be planted in a free draining, moist soil. Excellent in a pot in an alpine house, or planted in a south-facing rockery. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate 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

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-lateralis/>