

Celmisia lindsayi

COMMON NAME

Lindsay's daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia lindsayi Hook. f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELLND

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South island: From the mouth of the Clutha River to Waikaia.

HABITAT

Coastal rocks, on exposed or sheltered but usually south-facing and shaded rock stacks, tors and cliff faces.

FEATURES

Robust subshrub, low-growing, forming patches up to c.2 m. diameter; stems very stout, branched, up to c.15 mm diameter; branches creeping or ascending, clad in long-persistent reflexed leaves; living leaves in approximate rosulate tufts at ends of branchlets. Lamina coriaceous, viscid, narrow-oblong to suboblanceolate or elliptic, $\pm 100-150 \times 15-25$ mm; upper surface without tomentum, lower densely clad in appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib dark, stout, prominent; apex obtuse to subacute; margins sinuate, slightly thickened, entire to remotely denticulate, narrowed to petiole $\pm 2.5-3.0 \times 1.5-2.5$ mm. Sheath c.30 \times 10 mm, glabrous, coriaceous; nerves parallel, usually prominent. Scape 50-200 mm, slender, flexuous, very sparingly hairy; lower bracts leaf-like, up to c.30 mm long, upper linear. Capitula 25-50 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear, up to 12 mm. long, subfloccose in apical half, midrib distinct. Ray-florets linear, c.12-15 mm long; disk-florets numerous, tubular, c.6-8 mm. long, teeth broad-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, \pm compressed, 3-4 mm long; ribs prominent, rather densely clad in short ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs white, becoming \pm rufous, up to 6-7 mm long, barbellate



Cannibal Bay (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Cannibal Bay (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

Closely related to *Celmisia bonplandii*, an alpine species which is regarded by many botanists as conspecific with *C. lindsayi*. Pending further investigation both species are maintained as distinct here. *Celmisia bonplandii* differs from *C. lindsayi* by its restriction to subalpine and alpine habitats, smaller, wider leaves (40-100 x 15-30 mm cf. 100-150 x 15-25 mm in *C. lindsayi*); longer, stouter, glabrescent scapes (150-300mm cf. 50-200 mm in *C. lindsayi*), and mostly shorter achenes (2.5-3.0 mm cf. 3.0-4.0 mm in *C. lindsayi*).

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Best grown from fresh seed. Can be grown by dividing established plants. Does best in a shaded site planted within a permanently moist, free draining soil. More easily grown in the southern part of New Zealand

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, narrow range endemic which is locally common in its few known localities. Some accessible populations have been plundered by plant collectors. However, most populations are in remote areas or extremely inaccessible.

ETYMOLOGY

celmisia: Apparently named after Kelmis, one of Idaeian 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-lindsayi/>