

Celmisia major var. brevis

COMMON NAMES

Egmont mountain daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb with tufted leaves arising from simple to multicapital stock, pseudo-stem \pm 300 mm long. Lamina 100-150 \times 5-16 mm; narrow-linear tapering regularly from sheath to acute apex, coriaceous; upper surface dark silvery green to grey-green clad in thin pellicle (thicker towards base), sulcate; lower densely clad in silvery white satiny appressed tomentum, midrib evident; margins distinctly recurved. Sheath pale, thin, c. 30 mm long, nerves evident, margins \pm densely clad in floccose hairs in upper part. Scape stout up to \pm 200 mm long, pellicled to subfloccose; bracts ascending, lamina almost filiform up to 25 mm long, tomentum as in leaves; uppermost bracts on weakly developed into a pseudo-involucre. Capitula 20-40 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear-subulate acuminate, ciliate, glabrous on surfaces, 8.9-10.8 mm long with dark apices. Ray-florets numerous, up to 13 mm long, tube very slender, limb gradually widening to apex. Disk-florets narrow-funnelform, c. 7 mm long, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, grooved, glab. or very nearly so, c. 6-7 mm long. Pappus-hairs white, very slender, hardly barbellate, up to 7 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Part of a widespread complex of ill-resolved taxa that seem to grade between *Celmisia graclienta* at one end and *C. graminifolia* at the other. *Celmisia graclienta* var. *brevis* differs from var. *major* by its smaller overall size, more open and more weakly developed pseudo-involucre, and its restriction to subalpine and alpine habitats on Mt Egmont. See comments for *Celmisia adamsii* var. *adamsii*, *C. adamsii* var. *rugulosa* and *C. major* var. *major*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Mt Egmont (Taranaki).

HABITAT

Subalpine and alpine herbfield.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted plant that is abundant within its only known location of Mt Egmont National Park.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/11/2005, Licence: CC BY.



Egmont National Park. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Celmisia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia major var. brevis Allan

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1961)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - February

FRUITING

November - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. One of the few *Celmisia* that adapts well to cultivation. Does best in a semi-shaded site in a moist, free draining soil. Dislikes humidity and inclined to be short-lived.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

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

major: Greater

brevis: Short

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

CELMVB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[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

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2009). Description adapted from Allan (1961).
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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-major-var-brevis/>

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