

# Celmisia major var. brevis

## COMMON NAME

Egmont mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

None (described in 1961)

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia major* var. *brevis* Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELMVB

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Mt Egmont (Taranaki).

## HABITAT

Subalpine and alpine herbfield.



Manganui, Mt Taranaki (January).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:  
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In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe,  
Date taken: 18/11/2005, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb with tufted leaves arising from simple to multicapital stock, pseudo-stem ± 300 mm long. Lamina 100-150 × 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 ± densely clad in floccose hairs in upper part. Scape stout up to ± 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*.

## FLOWERING

October - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## 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.

## THREATS

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**celmisia**: Apparently named after Kelmis, one of the 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

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Celmisia major* var. *brevis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-major-var-brevis/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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