

Celmisia monroi

COMMON NAME

Monro's mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

Celmisia monroi var. *conspicua* W.Martin; *Celmisia minor* var. *robusta* W.Martin

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia monroi Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELMON

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: from the Wairau River southwards to Kaikoura, Mount Tinline, near Hanmer and Lake Tennyson. Outlying populations are at Mole Tops and on ranges adjacent to Lake Rotoiti (Nelson). North of the Clarence River it occurs on coastal sites (e.g., Flaxbourne River mouth)

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine. Found mainly in the drier parts of the north-eastern South Island (especially those areas within the rain shadow). This is a common of screes, fellfield, narrow ledges on cliff faces, and rocky herbfield. It is also found within tussock grassland where there is naturally dry ground such as where rock outcrop, or where thin skeletal soils have developed over bed rock. Near the coast it frequents limestone rocks



Mt Peel, Nelson. January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Celmisia monroi. Photographer: Sandra Wotherspoon

FEATURES

Stout woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually hidden; living leaves in large rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming patches of few to many rosettes; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 120-550 × 10-32 mm, coriaceous, stiff and erect, lanceolate to oblong; upper surface sulcate, concolorous, somewhat rugose in some plants, dark green but generally masked by a thick lead-coloured, dull pellicle which is sometimes partly deciduous on older leaves; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib moderately prominent; tip acute; margins entire, usually slightly recurved; base gradually narrowed to the petiole. Petiole up to 30 mm long. Sheath up to 80-200 × 20 mm, greenish or rarely pale purple, clad in floccose white hairs. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 350 mm long; bracts very numerous, erect, usually up to 60 mm long and revolute, sometimes lowest bracts much larger and foliaceous; monocephalous. Ray florets 80-100, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets c.250, 8-10 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with sparse long, eglandular biseriate hairs at base. Achene fusiform-cylindric, strongly grooved, 3-8 mm long, usually slightly hairy; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, 6-10 mm long, of c.50 barbellate bristles.

SIMILAR TAXA

Celmisia monroi is allied to *Celmisia dubia*, *C. morganii*, and *C. semicordata*. From these species it is most likely to be confused with *C. semicordata* from which it differs by the erect rather than open to spreading, leaves whose lamina pellicle is leaden rather than silver or golden-coloured. The achenes of *Celmisia monroi* are consistently hairy while those of *C. semicordata* are mostly glabrous

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - July

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a semi-shaded or sunny site, planted within a moist, free draining, soil. Dislikes humidity. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

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

monroi: Named after Sir David Monro who was a 19th century New Zealand politician

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1980)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1980: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia coriacea* (Forst.f.) Hook.f. and its immediate allies (Astereae-Compositae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 127-140.

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* 11: 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

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