

Celmisia petriei

COMMON NAMES

Petrie's mountain daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout tufted herb with strict, rigid, coriaceous leaves; leaf-sheaths densely imbricate around stems. Lamina 150-500 × 10-30 mm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, subpungent; upper surface glabrous, with a stout pair of ribs (sometimes doubled) parallel to rather obscure midrib (often with a further pair ± developed either side); lower surface completely clad in closely appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib and lateral pair evident; margins ± recurved, gradually narrowed to sheath or with very short petiole; sheath 40-80 mm long, coriaceous, finely grooved, midrib prominent, both surfaces clad in deciduous white satiny tomentum. Scape ± 200-500 mm long, stout, clad in dense floccose hairs; bracts narrow-linear; lower with lamina up to c.80 mm long. Capitula 30-40 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear-subulate, acuminate, up to c.17 mm long, pale brown, ± floccose-hairy on back, glabrous within, midrib evident. Ray-florets ± 17-20 mm long, white, tube narrow-cylindric, limb narrow-oblong. Disk-florets 6-7 mm long, tubular, teeth minute. Achenes cylindric, grooved, 2-3 mm long, with minute stiff white hairs on ribs. Pappus-hairs up to c.7 mm long, slender, minutely barbellate

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Celmisia armstrongii* and *C. lyallii*. From *Celmisia lyallii* it is distinguished by the leaves which lack a sharp tip and which have a stout, parallel pair of veins either side of an obscure central midrib rather than a single prominent midrib. From *Celmisia armstrongii*, *C. petriei* differs by the absence of a broad yellow band either side of the midrib on the upper leaf surface.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Widespread from southern Marlborough and North Westland south, and becoming more abundant in the southern part of the South Island.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Inhabiting grassland, herbfield, damp seepages within rock outcrops and in damp boulder falls and talus

GENUS

Celmisia

FAMILY

Asteraceae



Routeburn, Fiordland. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Celmisia petriei. Photographer: Sandra Wotherspoon, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Celmisia petriei Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, acidic soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

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

petriei: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

CELPET

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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