

Celmisia philocremna

COMMON NAME

Eyre Mountains daisy

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1971)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia philocremna Given

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELPHI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Eyre Mountains (Eyre Creek)

HABITAT

Confined to crevices and ledges on steep rock bluffs and ridges. In these sites it grows with *Celmisia ramulosa*, *Helichrysum intermedium*, *Celmisia densiflora*, *Raoulia buchananii* and *Hebe biggarii*.



In cultivation ex Eyre Mountains. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub with stout branchlets arising from a multicapital stock and forming an approximately hemispherical cushion up to 700 mm diameter. Branchlets stout, up to 4 mm diameter, dark, emitting cord-like roots. Living leaves imbricating and distributed along the upper part of branchlets. Lamina 15-25 × 3-5 mm, linear-oblong, widened slightly near the base, subobtusate at tip, margin strongly revolute; upper surface studded with short stalked glandular hairs, lower surface densely clad in felted white tomentum of crisped hairs. Sheath merging imperceptibly with lamina, membranous, densely tomentose on outer surface, glabrous on inner. Scape 50-80 × 2-3 mm, densely tomentose with long lustrous white hairs; bracts several, linear, tomentose to glabrate. Receptacle campanulate, 10-15 mm diameter. Involucral bracts in several series, imbricate, up to 12 mm long, subulate, acute, not recurved, both uniseriate and biseriate hairs present, margins densely fimbriate. Ray florets up to 25 mm long, limb wide and sparsely hairy, tube more so. In disc florets, corolla narrow funneliform, with both uniseriate and oblong biseriate eglandular hairs; stamen tip acute and noticeably elongated, anther tails sagittate; style bifid, the arms differentiated into a lower parallel-sided papillose portion and an upper long-triangular portion bearing long collecting hairs. Pappus bristles unequal, up to 6 mm long, c.25 in number, teeth short. Achene 4-5 × 0.8 mm, compressed, densely clad in long bifid hairs.

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species that is not easily confused with any other member of the genus. The tight cushion habit, excessively tomentose scapes and involucral bracts are especially diagnostic

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown from fresh seed but requires a free draining, moist soil. Best in shade or in an alpine house kept within a pot.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened

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

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1971)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1971: Two New Species of *Celmisia* Cass. (Compositae-Astereae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 9: 526-532

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-philocremna/>