

Celmisia ramulosa var. ramulosa

COMMON NAMES

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small shrub or subshrub with rather stout procumbent to ascending branched woody stems up to c.20 mm long; branchlets stiff, rather close-set, more or less 50 mm long. Leaves densely imbricate, erect, finally reflexed. Lamina c.5.0-10.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, linear-oblong to subulate, coriaceous; upper surface glabrous or nearly so, pale green; lower surface densely clad in soft white tomentum obscuring midrib; margins strongly revolute; apex obtuse, more or less trigonous-cucullate; base passing into broad pale membranous glabrous sheath more or less = lamina, with distinct midrib. Scape c.10-40 mm long, slender, densely glandular-pubescent; bracts few, more or less 5 mm long, linear. Capitula 20-25 mm diameter; involucral bracts c.5 mm long, linear-oblong, acute to subacute, densely glandular-pubescent. Ray-florets narrow, disk-florets narrow-tubular, c.5 mm long. Achenes c.3-4 mm long, narrow-cylindric, obscurely ribbed, with a few hairs. Pappus-hairs fine, white to sordid-white, up to c.4 mm long, very minutely barbellate

SIMILAR TAXA

One of a small group of subshrub *Celmisia* which includes *C. brevifolia*, *C. gibbsii*, *C. rupestris*, *C. lateralis* and *C. walkeri*. From these species *C. ramulosa* is distinguished by the scape which is 100-400 mm long; by the lamina which is 5.0-10.0 x 1.5-2.0 mm, and by the leaf undersides which is clad in soft white tomentum. *Celmisia ramulosa* var. *tuberculata* differs from var. *ramulosa* by the leaf margin which is distinctly papillate-hairy rather than entire and glabrous

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Otago, Southland and Fiordland.

HABITAT

Upper montane to subalpine rocky places and fellfield

GENUS

Celmisia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia ramulosa Hook.f. var. *ramulosa*



Gertrude Saddle. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Steele Creek, Greenstone. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 01/03/2013, Licence: CC BY.

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1864)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

January - May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

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

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Celmisia in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

CELRVR

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-ramulosa-var-ramulosa/>

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