

Celmisia ramulosa var. ramulosa

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1864)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia ramulosa Hook.f. var. *ramulosa*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

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: Otago, Southland and Fiordland.

HABITAT

Upper montane to subalpine rocky places and fellfield



Gertrude Saddle. Photographer: John Barkla



Hunter Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell

FEATURES

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; involucre 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 × 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

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January - May

LIFE CYCLE

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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-ramulosa-var-ramulosa/>