

Celmisia rupestris

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia rupestris Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELRUP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson (Kahurangi National Park) - Mount Glasgow, Mount Peel (Cobb), Cobb Valley, Aorere Peak

HABITAT

Upper montane to alpine. On cliff faces, rock outcrops and amongst rocks or in fellfield

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Prostrate or straggling shrub with stems up to \pm 1 m long and 10 mm diameter, branched; branchlets rather slender to stout, up to c. 150 mm long. Leaves numerous, densely imbricate; lamina 10-25 \times 2.5-3.0 mm, narrowly linear-spathulate, coriaceous, gradually narrowed to sheath; upper surface rather densely clad in soft white not appressed hairs, midrib concealed by hairs; lower surface similarly clad, but more densely so; apex obtuse to subacute, usually apiculate; margins strongly revolute, but not to midrib. Sheath broad, membranous, hairy. Scape glandular-pubescent, slender, up to \pm 150 mm long; bracts numerous, lower leaf-like, lamina 9.0-10.0 mm long expanding into sheath. Capitula 25-30 mm diameter; involucral bracts in two series, narrow-linear, c. 5 mm long, glandular-pubescent, \pm clad in floccose hairs Ray-florets many, narrow, clawed, limb c.6 mm long, white; disk-florets 3.8-4.1 mm long, tubular. Achenes subcylindric, 2.0-2.5 mm long, ribs with rather sparse hairs. Pappus-hairs sordid-white, up to 5 mm long



SIMILAR TAXA

One of a small group of subshrub *Celmisia* which includes *C. brevifolia*, *C. gibbsii*, *C. lateralis*, *C. ramulosa* and *C. walkeri*. From these species *C. rupestris* is perhaps most similar to *C. gibbsii* from which it is distinguished by the upper leaf surface which is densely clad in white hair.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November - May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed but can be grown from cuttings. Should be planted in a free draining, moist soil. Excellent in a pot in an alpine house, or planted in a south-facing rockery. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out.

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

rupestris: From the Latin *rupes* 'rock, cliff', meaning growing in rocky places

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

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-rupestris/>