

Celmisia rutlandii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a sparsely multicapital stock, usually close to the soil surface; living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming a clump of 1-8 rosettes; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 50-130 x 15-35 mm, coriaceous and rigid, all but the oldest leaves erect, lanceolate-ovate; upper surface sulcate, finely wrinkled when dry, concolorous, yellowish green, usually glabrous; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, usually silvery when fresh but buff in dried specimens, midrib prominent and purple; tip acute; margins entire, recurved; base usually cordate; petiole up to 6 cm long, purple. S sheath up to 70 x 25 mm, purple, clad in floccose, white hairs. Scape purple, clad in floccose, white hairs, up to 250 mm long; bracts several in upper part, erect, linear; monocephalous. Ray florets c. 40, ligulate, the limb linear, white. Disc florets c. 60, 5 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with eglandular biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform-cylindric, obscurely grooved, 3-5 mm long, hairs scattered to dense in upper half; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, 5-6 mm long, of 25-30 barbellate bristles.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is readily distinguished from the other *Celmisia* of the *C. coriacea* complex by the combination of purple sheaths and stiff, cordate leaf laminas lacking a pellicle. From those species Given (1980) aligned it with the north Westland endemic *C. morganii* from which he distinguished it by the shorter leaves (up to 130 cf. 150 mm long in *C. morganii*); by the leaf lamina rigid and erect rather than flaccid; by the upper lamina surface coloured yellowish green rather than dark green; and by the finely wrinkled rather than sulcate lamina surface when dry.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Mount Stokes; Richmond Range and Wairau mountains (Mount Patriarch, Mount Richmond, Mount Fishtail, Royal Knob, Mount Sunday, Mount Riley).

HABITAT

Alpine. Fellfield and crevices in rock outcrops surrounded by tussock grassland.

THREATS

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

GENUS

Celmisia



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FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia rutlandii Kirk

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 from fresh seed. *Celmisia rutlandii* is one of the few *Celmisia* species that are easily grown in most climates, though it dislikes high humidity. Best grown in a moist, free draining soil, within some afternoon shade.

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

CELRUT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1980: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia coriacea* (Forst.f.) Hook.f. and its immediate allies (Astereae-Compositae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 127-140.

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1980)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

09 July 2026