

# Celmisia semicordata subsp. aurigans

## COMMON NAME

large mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Celmisia semicordata subsp. aurigans Given

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Central and eastern Otago and Southland (Maungatua, Old Man Range, Skippers, Garvie Mountains).

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine. In depleted tussock grasslands and occasionally in herbfield and fellfield

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually hidden; living leaves in large rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming an irregular sward-like patch; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 110–420 × 20–70 mm, more or less coriaceous, at first erect but soon becoming patent, lanceolate to oblong-ovate; upper surface regularly sulcate, margin recurved, ± concolorous, masked by an obvious golden pellicle sometimes fading to leaden in old leaves; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent; tip acute; margins entire, flat or moderately recurved; base more or less cuneate, occasionally abruptly narrowed to the petiole. Petiole short. Sheath up to 120 × 0 mm, greenish or slightly purplish, clad in floccose white hairs. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 450 mm long; bracts ± foliaceous, prominent, erect, up to 150 mm long, margins revolute; usually monocephalous but occasionally with several capitula especially in cultivated specimens. Ray florets 200–250, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets 400–450, 8–9 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with long eglandular biseriate hairs in lower half. Achene fusiform, strongly grooved, 6–7 mm long, glabrous. Pappus unequal, 6 mm long, of c.40 barbellate bristles.



### SIMILAR TAXA

*Celmisia semicordata* subsp. *aurigens* differs from subsp. *semicordata* and subsp. *stricta* by the golden rather than distinctly silver or greenish bronze pellicle

### FLOWERING

October - February

### FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

### FRUITING

November - July

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, acidic soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

### 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 (1980)

### 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.

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-semicordata-subsp-aurigans/>