

# Celmisia spectabilis subsp. lanceolata

## COMMON NAME

common mountain daisy, cotton plant

## SYNONYMS

*Celmisia spectabilis* var. *lanceolata* Hook. f.

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia spectabilis* subsp. *lanceolata* (Hook.f.) D.R.Given

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELSSL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island. Eastern and North Wairarapa from Cape Palliser north to Castlepoint and Mt Kupukore.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Locally occurring at rocky sites on ridge crests and steep sided, craggy hills (locally known as taipos), in gorges, and descending to sea level at several localities



In cultivation ex Tainui Taipos, Wairarapa.  
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



In cultivation ex Tainui Taipos, Wairarapa.  
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## FEATURES

Woody-based herb forming mats or cushions up to 1.5 m diameter; with branchlets arising from a usually hidden simple or multicapital stock. Living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole forming a cushion or mat. Leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudostem. Leaf lamina 70-240 × 9-30 mm, (ratio of length to width ± 10); coriaceous, usually lanceolate-oblong to narrowly ovate; upper surface shining and sulcate: lower surface densely covered in soft felted almost tomentum, midrib distinct; tip acute; margins entire and recurved, occasionally minutely toothed, with the lamina base attenuate; sheath greenish. Petiole thin with evident veins. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 300 mm long, bracteate, monocephalous. Corolla of disc florets and achenes often with uniseriate and biseriate hairs, mostly hairy, rarely glabrous. Ray florets 40-100, ligulate, white. Disc florets 60-200, 5-9 mm long, funneliform: tube glabrous or with scattered uniseriate or biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform cylindrical, grooved, 1.5-6.5 mm long, usually sparsely covered in bifid hairs, rarely glabrous. Pappus hairs 5-9 mm long, barbellate.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Celmisia spectabilis* subsp. *spectabilis* by the narrower, longer leaves (70-240 × 9-30 mm cf. 30-180 × 3-30 mm in subsp. *spectabilis*), almost white rather than pale buff to brown tomentum, and attenuate rather than angled leaf base. The sheath of subsp. *lanceolata* is greenish rather than green to deep purple, and the achenes usually sparsely covered in hairs rather than mostly glabrous (a feature of subsp. *spectabilis*). *Celmisia spectabilis* subsp. *lanceolata* is allopatric from subsp. *spectabilis* being known only from the eastern and northern Wairarapa. From subsp. *magnifica*, subsp. *lanceolata* differs by the cuneate to cuneate-truncate lamina base, and almost white rather than pale buff coloured tomentum. The leaf sheath is greenish rather than green to purple. *Celmisia spectabilis* subsp. *magnifica* occurs to the south of the range of subsp. *spectabilis* from the Big Ben Range and Acheron Valley just north of Rakaia River, south to the Hunters Hills and Mount Studholme.

## FLOWERING

October - April

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Of the three subspecies of *Celmisia spectabilis*, *Celmisia spectabilis* subsp. *lanceolata* is the most easily cultivated. It is one of the few *Celmisia* that is easily grown in most climates though it dislikes high humidity. Best grown in a moist, free draining soil, within some afternoon shade. Plants can be raised from division but are best grown from fresh seed.

## THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, narrow range endemic that is abundant within its few known locations. It does not seem to be especially threatened by browsing animals. In some places it is present in rough pasture and actively spreading.

## 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

**spectabilis:** Notable

**lanceolata:** Lance-shaped

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

## ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Given (1984)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1984: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia* subgenus *Pelliculatae* section *Petiolatae* (Compositae—Astereae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 139-158.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-spectabilis-subsp-lanceolata/>