Celmisia viscosa

COMMON NAMES
Sticky mountain daisy

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stout subshrub with numerous low-growing branches, forming patches up to 2 m diameter; main stems up to 20 mm diameter, branches c.10 mm diameter, clad in persistent leaf-remnants; branchlets erect to ascending, living leaves in subrosulate tufts, ascending, finally reflexed. Lamina rigid, thick, coriaceous, very viscid, 60-150 × 6-9 mm, linear-subulate to narrow-oblong, gradually tapering from base to subacute apex; upper surface bright green, glabrous or occasionally pellicled, coarsely longitudinally grooved; lower surface white with appressed soft white felted tomentum; ribs numerous, prominent, parallel. Margins not or very slightly recurved, very minutely denticulate. Sheath abruptly widening from lamina, 20-25 × 10-15 mm, glabrous, grooved, brown to purplish. Scape stout, ± 150-300 mm long, densely glandular-pubescent; bracts few to many, viscid, linear-subulate, up to 20 mm long. Capitula 30-40 mm diameter; involucral bracts numerous, linear-subulate, acuminate, up to c.20 mm long, densely glandular-pubescent, except towards base. Ray-florets spreading, 10-20 mm long, white, limb narrow-oblong; disk-florets numerous, tubular, 3-5 mm long. Achenes narrow-cylindric, ± compressed, 3-4 mm long; ribs with short ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs up to c.6•5 mm long, white, very slender, hardly barbellate.

Hunter Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 19/12/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Mount Burns, Fiordland. Photographer: Anne Humburg, Date taken: 13/12/2008, Licence: All rights reserved.

SIMILAR TAXA
Allied to Celmisia angustifolia from which it differs by the distinctively, heavily ribbed, extremely viscid longer leaves (60-150 × 6-9 mm cf. 25-50 × 2-6 mm).

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island. Marlborough south an dmostly east of the divide

HABITAT
Upper montane to alpine. In grassland, herbfield, fellfield, around rock outcrops, and in stable talus (boulder-field) and occasionally scree

GENUS
Celmisia

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Hook.f.

SYNONYMS
None

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November - March

FRUITING
December - May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Unknown. Probably best grown from fresh seed and like many Celmisia this species will probably dislike high humidity and drying out

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
viscosa: Sticky

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to Celmisia in New Zealand

NVS CODE
CELVIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-viscosa/

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