

Celmisia walkeri

COMMON NAME

Walker's mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia walkeri Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELWAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: widespread from about south Marlborough and the Paparoa Range south

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine rocky places, rock-clefts and fellfield



Borland saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



South Temple Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling, sometimes lianoid, shrub with main stems up to \pm 2 m long and 5-15 mm diameter; branches and branchlets stout, woody, \pm invested by persistent leaf-sheaths and leaf-remnants. Leaves slightly viscid, numerous, densely imbricated along branchlets. Lamina 20-50 \times 3-5 mm, erect but becoming patent and finally reflexed; narrow-oblong to narrowly obovate-oblong, slightly narrowed to sheath, coriaceous; upper surface glabrous, \pm viscid, grooved, midrib impressed; lower surface clad in soft white appressed tomentum, midrib evident; apex \pm acute; margins flat, rather obscurely toothed; sheath pale, slightly wider than lamina at apex, 15 \times 4 mm, pale brown, thinly coriaceous. Scape 100-200 mm long, slender, \pm glandular-pubescent; bracts several, linear-subulate, up to 20 mm long. Capitula 20-40 mm diameter; involucral bracts linear, 6-8 mm long, pale, \pm glandular-pubescent to glabrous, margins ciliolate, midrib distinct. Ray-florets numerous; claw \pm compressed, 6 mm long, white; limb 6 mm long, elliptic-oblong. Disk-florets 6-7 mm long, narrow-funnelform; teeth minute, triangular. Achenes c. 5 mm long, subcompressed-cylindric; ribs rather obscure, with minute ascending hairs. Pappus of sordid-white minutely barbellate hairs up to \pm 6 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA

One of a small group of subshrub *Celmisia* which includes *C. brevifolia*, *C. gibbsii*, *C. rupestris*, *C. lateralis* and *C. ramulosa*. From these species *C. walkeri* is distinguished by the scape which is 100-200 mm long; by the lamina which is 20-50 \times 3-5 mm, and by the leaf undersides which is clad in soft white tomentum.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

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.

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 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-walkeri/>