

# Damnamenia vernicosa

## COMMON NAME

damnamenia

## SYNONYMS

Celmisia vernicosa Hook.f.

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Damnamenia vernicosa (Hook f.) D.R.Given

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

DAMVER

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

A species of mostly upland cushion bogs and Pleurophyllum Hook.f. dominated meadows. Also grows at low elevations in exposed, inhospitable, sparsely vegetated sites.



Campbell Island. Photographer: David A. Norton, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Campbell Island. Photographer: David A. Norton, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stoloniferous herb with thick woody multicapital basal stock. Living leaves densely imbricating and forming rosettes at tips of branchlets and sometimes at ends of leafy stolons. Leaves glossy as though varnished, glabrous; venation simple with lateral veins of sheath not extending into the lamina. Ptyxis plain. Inflorescence scapose and monocephalous. Receptacle obconic; phyllaries in several series, bearing eglandular uniseriate hairs only. Ray florets ligulate, female, white, occasionally pale rose especially near tips, limb and tube clad in scattered hairs. Disc florets tubular, perfect, purple or occasionally yellow, cyathiform above point of insertion of stamen filaments and usually cylindrical below, although occasionally gradually narrowing towards corolla base; corolla hairs eglandular biseriate and uniseriate; stamen tip usually obtuse or if acute then short, anther tails present but shorter than the basally narrowed filament collar; style arms short, terminal appendage broadly triangular and bearing long collecting hairs on back and margin. Pappus bristles unequal, in more than one series, plumose with long crowded teeth. Achene obconic, clad in duplex hairs.

## SIMILAR TAXA

None

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## FRUITING

December - March

## LIFE CYCLE

Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

## THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic, abundant and under no obvious threats within its known sites. Both Auckland and Campbell Island are Nature Reserves and World Heritage Sites administered by the New Zealand Department of Conservation who exercises strict controls on landings to these islands.

## ETYMOLOGY

**vernica**: Varnished

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1973).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1973. *Damnomenia* gen. nov. A New Subantarctic Genus Allied to *Celmisia* Cass. (Astereae-Compositae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 11: 785-796.

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/damnomenia-vernica/>