

# Celmisia macmahonii var. macmahonii

## COMMON NAME

Macmahon's rock daisy, Mt Stokes daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia macmahonii* Kirk var. *macmahonii*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELVMC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: ST

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough Sounds, confined to Mt Stokes and Macmahon.

## HABITAT

Shaded turf on rock ledges and cliff faces within silver beech (*Lophozonia menziesii*) forest.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, silvery-green, creeping daisy forming compact cushions 10-50 cm diam. Leaves in dense rosettes, obovate-oblong, 20-35 x 6-8 mm, leathery, all parts invested in silvery appressed hairs, these drying yellow-brown to rust-red. Flowering stems 75-125 mm long, covered in floccose silvery hairs (these also drying yellow-brown to rust-red) and numerous, linear-subulate 20 mm long, more or less appressed bracts. Flower head 20-25 mm diam. Phyllaries (scales enclosing base of flower head) numerous, linear-subulate, 12 mm long, acute to acuminate, clad in long, silky silvery (drying yellow-brown) hairs. Ray florets white, numerous, 12-15 mm long, apex 3-toothed; disc-florets yellow, tubular, 5-7 mm long, flaring at toothed apex. Seeds (Achenes) compressed-cylindric, grooved, 2 mm long, ribs clad in ascending hairs. Pappus hairs white, 6 mm, barbellate.



Mt Stokes (February). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Abaxial leaf surface; Mt Stokes. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 19/02/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive *Celmisia* not obviously allied to any other species, and distinguished from all other cushion-forming species by the leathery, stiff leaves, which are 6-8 mm wide and clad in silvery hairs which dry yellow brown or rust-red. appressed hairs. The Richmond Range endemic *C. macmahonii* var. *hadfieldii*, is very closely related, and differs mainly by its smaller overall dimensions, and sparsely hairy leaves which have apiculate apices.

## FLOWERING

November - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

April - July

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from fresh seed and divisions of whole plants. Tricky and difficult to maintain in cultivation without specialist care and an alpine house. Should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

This species has been seriously threatened by feral goats which have from time to time spread into its only known habitat. Within the last decade goat control has reduced this threat but it remains an ongoing problem until such time as goats are completely eradicated from the region, or the habitat adequately fenced. This daisy has previously had a Nationally Critical threat assessment mainly because there were so few plants, occupying a very small area. Recent surveys and monitoring suggest that although uncommon the current population remains stable.

## ETYMOLOGY

**celmisia:** Apparently named after Kelmis, one of Idaeian 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

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 January 2009. 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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-macmahonii-var-macmahonii/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-macmahonii-var-macmahonii/>