

Celmisia thomsonii

COMMON NAMES

Thomson's Mountain Daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia thomsonii Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELTHO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Eyre Mountains

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. Confined to valley heads where it grows on shaded cliff faces in rock-crevices.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stems rather stout, hard, closely branched; living leaves forming dense flat rosettes at tips of branchlets. Lamina ± 10-15 × 3-5 mm, obovate-to narrow-oblong, obtuse, sometimes apiculate, coriaceous; upper surface dull green, ± plicate, ± setulose; lower setulose, glabrous or with scattered hairs, sts forming a distinct pellicle, midrib distinct; margins minutely irregularly denticulate towards apex, cuneately narrowed into petiole c.3 mm long, then expanded into short sheath. Scape slender, glandular-pubescent, ± 40-70 mm long; bracts linear-oblong, up to 10 mm long. Capitula 15-20 mm. diameter; involucre bracts narrowly lanceolate to oblong, up to c.10 mm long. Ray-florets numerous, white or pink, slender, ± 15 mm long, with pilose tube and long linear limb; disk-florets funnelform, 5-6 mm long, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes cylindric, 2.5-3.0 mm long, densely clad on strong ribs in long ascending silky hairs. Pappus-hairs white, up to c. 5 mm long, barbellate.



Eyre Mts (Bowels of the Earth) growing on rocky wet crevices at approximately 1500m. Photographer: Sue Lake, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Eyre Mts (Bowels of the Earth) growing on rocky wet crevices at approximately 1500m. Photographer: Sue Lake, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to the widespread *Celmisia bellidioides* from which it is easily distinguished by its dull rather glossy upper leaf surfaces and white to pink rather than uniformly white ray-florets. *Celmisia thomsonii* is ecologically distinct from *C. bellidioides* favouring very steep, fractured, shaded cliff faces, while *C. bellidioides* prefers wet rocky and gravelly places along gorges, near streamsides and in and around waterfalls.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably easy from fresh seed that has been cold treated. However, like many *Celmisia* probably difficult to maintain in warm or humid climates.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, narrow range endemic which though extremely localised is common in its few known localities and under no obvious human induced threats.

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

thomsonii: After Thomson

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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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-thomsonii/>

PDF DATE

27 September 2024