

# Celmisia bellidioides

## COMMON NAMES

green cushion mountain daisy

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Creeping much-branched mat-forming herb; main stems slender to rather stout, slightly woody at base; branches much-divided, prostrate, rooting, clad in long persistent leaf-remnants; branchlets clad at apex in close rosettes of spreading living leaves. Lamina subcoriaceous, almost fleshy, glabrous, narrowly obovate-oblong to oblong to spatulate, 7-15 × 3-6 mm; upper surface dark green, glossy; lower paler; midrib impressed above, prominent below. Apex rounded; margins entire or sometimes obscurely toothed, narrowed to ± floccose sheath c.5 mm long. Scape slender, up to c.50 mm long, glabrous or with sparse white hairs; bracts numerous, narrow-linear, obtuse to subacute, lower up to c.10 mm long. Capitula c.20 mm diameter; involucral bracts green or pale-green, linear-to lanceolate-oblong, glabrous, thin, up to 10 mm. long. Ray-florets numerous, c.11 mm long; tube very slender, occasionally with sparse hairs; limb narrow-obovate. Disk-florets narrow-funnelform, c.6 mm long; teeth minute, triangular. Achenes compressed-cylindric, ribbed, 3-4 mm long, ± densely clad in short ascending silky hairs. Pappus-hairs up to 5 mm long, slender, white to rufous, very finely or hardly barbellate

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to the naturally uncommon, Eyre Range endemic *Celmisia thomsonii* from which it is easily distinguished by its dark to light green, glossy upper leaf surfaces and uniformly white ray-florets. The upper leaf surface of *Celmisia thomsonii* is dull green, and the ray-florets are often tinged pink.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: from Nelson and Marlborough to Southland.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in wet rocky and gravelly places in gorges and along streamsides. Often near waterfalls

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

### FAMILY

Asteraceae

### AUTHORITY

*Celmisia bellidioides* Hook.f.



Cultivated plant, ex Kakanui Mountains.  
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Arthur's Pass. Photographer: Jane Gosden,  
Date taken: 27/03/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### FLOWERING

November - February

### FRUITING

December - March

### LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed. Can be grown by dividing established plants. Does best in a shaded site planted within a permanently moist, free draining soil.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

### 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

**bellidioides**: Like Bellis, the English daisy

### NVS CODE

CELBEL

### 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: 2024 | At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR, Sp

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

### 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

## **ATTRIBUTION**

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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## **MORE INFORMATION**

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

## **PDF DATE**

11 March 2025