

# Celmisia bonplandii

## COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

*Erigeron bonplandii* Buchanan

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia bonplandii* (Buchanan) Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELBON

## 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: From Otago south and westwards becoming most common in western Otago, Fiordland and western Southland.

## HABITAT

Mostly subalpine to alpine. A species of high rain fall areas, evidently preferring shaded sites in rocky places such as amongst boulderfalls and on cliff faces. Also in damp sites in grassland, fellfield. Sometimes found in avalanche debris along forest margins



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



Gertrude Saddle, Fiordland National Park. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, usually sparingly branched low-growing subshrub forming loose patches up to 2 m diameter; branches long-clad in reflexed leaves; living leaves viscid, aggregated in ± rosulate tufts at tips of branchlets. Lamina coriaceous, 40-100 × 15-30 mm, elliptic-obovate to elliptic-oblong to obovate; upper surface glabrous, ± lustrous, midrib ± evident; lower surface clad in closely appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib dark, prominent. Apex subacute to obtuse, sometimes apiculate; margins sinuate, sometimes distantly denticulate, cuneately narrowed to broad petiole up to c. 10 mm long. Sheath submembranous, glabrous, 20-30 × 15-20 mm, veins prominent. Scape rather stout, ± compressed, glabrescent ± glandular, ± 150-300 mm long. Bracts several, linear-subulate, lowermost up to c.25 mm long, ± floccose at junction with sheath. Capitula c.30-50 mm diameter; involucre bracts up to c.11 mm long, thin, pale, glabrous or nearly so in lower ½, pilose and ciliate in upper ½, glandular towards apex. Ray-florets linear, up to c.15 mm. long, widening to 5-toothed apex; disk-florets 7-8 mm. long, ± cylindric, widening to 5-toothed mouth. Anthers without tails. Achenes cylindric, 2.5-3.0 mm long, with sparse hairs on ribs, sometimes papillose. Pappus-hairs sordid-white, slender, ± 6.5 mm long, very obscurely barbellate

## SIMILAR TAXA

Closely related to *Celmisia lindsayi*, a south-eastern South Island coastal species with which *C. bonplandii* is regarded by many botanists as conspecific. Pending further investigation both species are maintained as distinct here. *Celmisia bonplandii* differs from *C. lindsayi* by its restriction to subalpine and alpine habitats, smaller, wider leaves (40-100 x 15-30 mm cf. 100-150 x 15-25 mm in *C. lindsayi*); longer, stouter, glabrescent scapes (150-300mm cf. 50-200 mm in *C. lindsayi*), and mostly shorter achenes (2.5-3.0 mm cf. 3.0-4.0 mm in *C. lindsayi*).

## FLOWERING

October - March

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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. More easily grown in the southern part of New Zealand

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

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