

Celmisia brevifolia

COMMON NAME

common shrub mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia brevifolia Cockayne

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELBRE

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: Throughout.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Widespread in open grassland, rocky places and fellfield.



Old Man range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Old Woman Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling subshrub forming loose clumps up to c.0.8 m diameter; stems and branches stout, woody, clad in long-persistent leaf-remnants; branchlets rather stout, clad in imbricate, suberect, finally ± reflexed leaves. Lamina coriaceous, 10-20 × 6-9 mm, oblong to obovate-oblong; upper surface viscid, at first clad in thin pellicle, or pellicle long enduring; lower surface clad in subappressed soft white or almost satiny tomentum, midrib evident or obscured; apex obtuse, margins remotely and minutely toothed to subentire, very slightly recurved; base abruptly narrowed to sheath or very short petiole. Sheath very thin, glabrous, ± translucent, up to 10 mm long, closely appressed to branchlet. Scape slender, viscid, ± 40-80 mm long, erect; bracts few, lamina linear, up to c. 10 mm long. Capitula 20-30 mm diameter; involucre bracts narrow-linear to narrow linear-spathulate, c.8 mm long, ± densely clad in floccose hairs on margins and towards apex, midrib evident. Ray-florets narrow-spathulate to linear, tube ± glandular, limb-apex 3-4-toothed, margins recurved when dry. Disk-florets 5-6 mm long, narrowly funnelform, teeth triangular. Achenes 2-3 mm long, compressed-cylindric, ribs rather densely clad in short ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs slender, white to sordid-white, up to c.5 mm long, very finely barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

One of a small group of celmisias that are readily recognised by their stout, woody, subshrub growth habit with leaves that overlap but never form rosulate tufts at the stem apices. From *C. gibbsii* and *C. rupestris* it is distinguished by the oblong rather than linear or lanceolate leaves which are 6-9 mm rather than up to 5 mm wide, and which have rounded rather than narrowly obtuse, acute or acuminate apices

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and hardwood cuttings. Reasonably easy to grow but dislikes humidity and cannot tolerate drying out. Best grown in a rockery or within a pot in an alpine house.

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

brevifolia: Short-leaved

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.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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