Celmisia coriacea

COMMON NAME
Fiordland mountain daisy

SYNONYMS
Celmisia lanceolata Cockayne

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Celmisia coriacea (G.Forst.) Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE
CELCOR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

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

Mt Burns, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island: Fiordland from about Nancy Sound to near Puysegur Point, generally most abundant in western Fiordland but extending east into Southland via the Hunter Mountains, the Hump and Longwood Range.

HABITAT
Montane to alpine. A common component of wet grassland and herbfield especially near timber line where it forms large patches in boggy grass-rush communities intermixed with low scrub.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stout woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicipital stock, usually hidden; living leaves in large rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming an irregular sward-like patch; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 160-400 x 25-55 mm, coriaceous, older leaves somewhat patent, lanceolate or occasionally oblong; upper surface sulcate, somewhat rugose in some plants, bronze-green with a conspicuous orange stripe along the midrib, pellicle bronze, obvious, and deciduous in old leaves; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent; tip acute; margins entire, often slightly revolute; base more or less cuneate, occasionally abruptly narrowed to the petiole. Petiole short. Sheath up to 130 x 40 mm, yellowish, clad in floccose white hairs. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 450 mm long; bracts several in upper half, erect, up to 80 mm long, strongly revolute; monocephalous. Ray florets 160-200, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets 200-250, 7-8 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with long eglandular biseriate hairs in lower half. Achene fusiform to obovoid, strongly grooved, 4.5-5.0 mm long, moderately to densely hairy; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, up to 6 mm long, of c.30 barbellate bristles.

SIMILAR TAXA
Distinguished from *C. armstrongii*, with which it apparently does not grow, by the leaves which are > 20 mm wide. *Celmisia semicordata* has long been confused with *C. coriacea* - from *C. semicordata*, *C. coriacea* (a Fiordland and western Southland endemic) differs by the presence of an orange-brown medial stripe on the leaf, and by the more or less evenly hairy achenes (rather than glabrous or with hairs confined to the upper half of the achene).

FLOWERING
November - February

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

FRUITING
January - April

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, acidic soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

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
coriacea: Leathery

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION
Description from Given (1984)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Given, D.R. 1980: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia coriacea* (Forst.f.) Hook.f. and its immediate allies (Astereae-Compositae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany 18*: 127-140.
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(4)*: 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-coriacea/