

# Celmisia densiflora

## COMMON NAMES

mountain daisy

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted herb with stout woody simple or sparingly branched stock; leaf-sheaths densely imbricating, forming a pseudo-stem. Lamina coriaceous, narrow- to narrowly obovate-oblong,  $\pm 60\text{-}150 \times 15\text{-}40$  mm, obtuse or subacute; upper surface glabrous or nearly so; lower densely clad in appressed white satiny tomentum; both with evident midrib; margins very slightly recurved, bluntly (sometimes apiculately) crenate-sinuate, narrowed to petiole of diverse dimensions; sheath strongly ribbed, glabrous or very nearly so,  $c.50 \times 10$  mm. Scape  $\pm 150\text{-}400$  mm long, glabrous, glandular-viscid, purplish, stout; bracts linear, lamina  $\pm 25\text{-}40$  mm long, apiculate, clad below in white satiny tomentum. Capitula  $25\text{-}40$  mm diameter; involucral bracts numerous, linear-subulate, glabrous, viscid, up to  $c.15$  mm long, apex hairy. Ray-florets  $c.15\text{-}20$  mm long, narrow; disk-florets  $7\text{-}8$  mm long, funnellform, teeth narrow-triangular,  $c.1$  mm long. Achenes compressed-cylindric,  $c.6$  mm long, strongly grooved, with appressed silky hairs on ribs. Pappus-hairs slender, up to  $c. 6$  mm long, white to sordid-white, barbellate.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allan (1961) aligned this species with *Celmisia parva*, from which he distinguished it by the larger leaves ( $60\text{-}150 \times 15\text{-}40$  mm cf.  $< 60 \times 15$  mm in *C. parva*) which are conspicuously rather than minutely toothed. However, the late A.P. Druce regarded *C. densiflora* and *C. prorepens* as the same species. Further study into the status of this species pair, as indeed the taxonomic status of all *Celmisia* is urgently needed.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: From southern Marlborough and North Canterbury south to northern Southland.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Inhabiting grassland, herbfield, fell-field and open subalpine shrubland.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Asteraceae



Mount Bee, Eyre Mountains, Southland.  
Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken:  
31/12/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Bee, Eyre Moutains, Southland.  
Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken:  
31/12/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia densiflora* Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FRUITING

December - April

## 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.

## OTHER INFORMATION

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## 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

**densiflora:** Densely flowered

## NVS CODE

CELDEN

## 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 | Regionally Not Threatened

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: *Flora of New Zealand. Volume I*. Government Printer, Wellington.

## **ATTRIBUTION**

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

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

## **PDF DATE**

11 March 2025