

Celmisia sinclairii

COMMON NAME

Sinclair's mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia sinclairii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELSIN

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: Nelson and Marlborough from the Richmond Range and Wairau Mountains south to the St Arnaud Range and upper Clarence.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Mainly in grassland and herbfield. Occasionally on rock outcrops.



Misery Tarn, Branch River catchment.
Photographer: Simon Moore, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Mount Fishtail, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small low-growing subshrub with stems branching from near base; branches short, ascending to spreading, clad in persistent leaf-remnants; living leaves rosulate at tips of branchlets. Lamina bright green, glabrous on both surfaces, $\pm 50\text{--}70 \times 15$ mm, obovate, obovate-elliptic to elliptic-spathulate, membranous; lower surface with conspicuous midrib; apex obtuse to subacute, apiculate; margins entire to obscurely denticulate, gradually narrowed to short petiole, then expanded into striate, glabrous, thin sheath $\pm 25 \times 6$ mm. Scape slender, almost glabrous, ± 150 mm long; bracts linear-subulate, 8-9 mm long, \pm ciliolate. Capitula 30-40 mm diameter; involucral bracts linear-subulate, spreading, \pm ciliolate at apex. Ray-florets numerous, linear, c. 8-12 mm long, obtuse. Disk-florets narrow-funnelform, c. 5-6 mm long. Achenes silky-hairy on ribs. Pappus-hairs up to 6 mm long, slender, barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the glabrous leaves which form rosulate tufts at the branchlet tips.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably best grown from fresh seed and like many *Celmisia* this species will probably dislike high humidity and drying out.

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

sinclairii: After Sinclair (c. 1796-1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially available.

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* 11: 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION

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