

# Celmisia durietzii

## COMMON NAME

Durietz's mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia durietzii* Cockayne & Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELDUR

## 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: Marlborough south. Stewart Island plants included here by Allan (1961) appear to be an allied but as yet undescribed species endemic to that island.

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine grassland, herbfield, and fellfield. Sometimes rupestral on rock outcrops and tors.



*Celmisia durietzii*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Routeburn, Fiordland. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust subshrub with stout simple to multicapital stock; branches ± arcuate, clad in persistent imbricate leaf-remnants; living leaves rosulate, spreading, at tips of branchlets. Lamina ±30-60 × 7-10 mm, narrow-elliptic, elliptic-obovate to subspathulate (often varying on same plant), subcoriaceous; upper surface glabrous, usually with deciduous pellicle when young (in some forms clad in soft white tomentum); lower densely clad in white appressed silky soft hairs, midrib evident; apex obtuse to subacute; margins minutely obscurely denticulate, gradually narrowed to rather slender petiole up to ±30 mm long. Sheath translucent, glabrous, ±25 × 5 mm, longitudinal veins prominent. Scape stiff, rather stout, finely ribbed, glabrous or nearly so, ± 200 mm long; lower bracts tomentose below, up to c.30 mm long (lowest often foliaceous), upper less hairy below, midrib evident. Capitula 30-40 mm diameter; involucre bracts ± reflexed, glandular-pubescent, up to 12 mm long, linear, subcoriaceous, midrib distinct, margins pilose, apical part with tuft of floccose hairs. Ray-florets c.15 mm long, white, tube almost filiform, limb narrow-obovate, c.3 mm broad. Disk-florets numerous, slender, tubular, only slightly flaring, 6-7 mm long, teeth minute, narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, ±5-6 mm long, densely clad in fine silky subappressed hairs. Pappus-hairs very slender, white, up to c.7 mm. long, hardly barbellate

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Celmisia haastii*, *C. cockayneana*, *C. lindsayi* and *C. bonplandii* from which it differs by the leaves which are 30-60 x 70-100 mm, translucent, glabrous sheath (25-40 x 5 mm) and achenes which are evenly covered in silky hairs. Ecologically *C. lindsayi* is a coastal species, while *C. bonplandii* prefers wetter habitats. Both *C. lindsayi* and *C. bonplandii* have much wider leaves, and seeds that are sparsely hairy. *Celmisia cockayneana* has longer, wider leaves and is confined to Marlborough, while *C. haastii* has glabrous seeds, longer and wider leaves, and a yellowish-green sheath. Stewart Island plants treated as *C. durietzii* by Allan (1961) and those from Fiordland appear to be an allied but as yet unnamed species.

## FLOWERING

October - March

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - May

## 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

## 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-durietzii/>