

# Celmisia markii

## COMMON NAME

Mark's celmisia

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia markii* Given et W.R.Lee

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELMAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island south of Haast River to Mount Paulina, Caswell Sound. Also Mt Aspiring National Park.

## HABITAT

Alpine. On sparsely vegetated ground, fell field and in tussock grassland. Not known from ultramafic rocks.



Waiototo Valley, Mt Aspiring National Park.  
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Flowerheads; Mt Aspiring National Park.  
Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken:  
02/01/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based perennial herb arising from multicapital stock and forming somewhat flattened hemispherical cushions up to 80 cm diameter. Leaf lamina linear, rigid, straight; current seasons leaves erect, those of previous season becoming reflexed; 50.0-100.0 × 1.0—2.5 mm; upper surface with a median groove, yellowish green, clad in a persistent pellicle which becomes grey-green on older leaves; lower surface clad in white appressed tomentum; margins entire, strongly recurved to midrib; tip acute but not markedly acicular. Leaf sheath up to 50 mm long, membranous, purplish, covered with a thin pellicle. Scape 80-150 × 2-3 mm; bracts few, up to 25 mm long, glabrate, yellowish-green. Involucral bracts erect, linear-subulate, acute, up to 15 mm long, glabrate, tawny brown, venation simple. Receptacle obconic, surface alveolate. Ray florets up to 15 mm long, limb narrow, linear-lanceolate and glabrous, tube narrow and glabrous. In disc florets, corolla tube gradually narrowed from apex to base, glabrous; stamen tip acute, anther tails short; style bifid, arms differentiated into a lower parallel-sided papillose portion shorter than the triangular appendage which bears short collecting hairs. Pappus bristles unequal, c.25 in number, 3.5-5.0 mm long with closely spaced, short teeth. Achenes 3-3.5 mm long, fusiform, ribbed and clad in short bifid hairs.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *Celmisia spedenii* which is an ultramafic species found on the Livingston Range and at West Dome. It differs from *C. markii* by its usually curved rather than straight leaves, with acicular rather than rounded leaf tips. The involucral bracts of *C. markii* are glabrate, tawny-brown while those of *C. spedenii* are silver-grey and tomentose

## FLOWERING

December - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

December - February

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened

## ETYMOLOGY

**celmisia:** Apparently named after Kelmis, one of the 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

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from: Lee and Given (1984)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lee, W.G.; Given, D.R. 1984: *Celmisia spedenii* G. Simpson, an ultramafic endemic, and *Celmisia markii*, sp. nov., from southern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 585-592.

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-markii/>