

# Celmisia alpina

## COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

*Celmisia longifolia* var. *alpina* Kirk

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia alpina* (Kirk) Cheeseman

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELALP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 216

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South and Stewart Islands: Widespread. Similar forms occur in the North Island.

## HABITAT

montane to alpine. In mires and bogs and other similar poorly draining surfaces in herbfield, fell-field and subalpine shrubland.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mt Burns, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Bealey Valley. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted herb arising from a usually, much divided and closely branched woody stock up to c.60 mm long, pseudo-stems up to c. 20 mm long, close-set. Leaves very narrow-linear, subcoriaceous; lamina  $\pm 15-30 \times (0.5)-0.75-1$  mm; upper surface canaliculate, grey-green,  $\pm$  glabrous; lower densely clad in appressed soft white tomentum, midrib evident; apex acute, often shortly apiculate; margins strongly recurved, entire, narrowed to glabrous, pale, thin sheath c.10  $\times$  1 mm, with evident midrib. Scape 30-50 mm long, very slender, finely grooved,  $\pm$  clad in deciduous floccose hairs; bracts almost filiform, ascending, up to 10 mm long. Capitula 15-20 mm diameter. Involucral bracts 2-seriate, scarious, midrib evident, margins sparingly hairy, tips acute, dark; outer series c.7 mm long, narrow-ovate; inner c.9 mm long, narrowly linear-subulate to narrow-lanceolate. Ray-florets  $\pm 12$  mm long, white, tube very slender, limb widening to apex; disk-florets  $\pm 5$  mm long, tubular to very narrowly funnelform, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, finely ribbed, c. 2.5-3.0 mm long, glabrous. Pappus-hairs white, slender, up to 5 mm long, very finely barbellate

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Celmisia alpina* is part of the *C. gracilentata* - *C. graminifolia* complex. This complex is in urgent need of revision. Allan (1961) evidently thought it most similar to *C. graminifolia*, from which he distinguished it by its much narrower leaves (dimensions given....not > c.1 mm wide cf. ...not < c.4 mm wide for *C. graminifolia*). In the field *Celmisia alpina* is chiefly recognised by its much smaller size and very narrow-linear leaves. Similar forms known as *C. setacea* Colenso (a name sometimes used by botanists) occur in the North Island (and probably the South Island too). They deserve further study.

## FLOWERING

November - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

January - April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. One of the few *Celmisia* that does well in cultivation. As with most *Celmisia* dislikes humidity and will not long tolerate 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

**alpina:** From the Latin alpes 'the Alps', refers to plants growing in mountainous areas

## 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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## MORE INFORMATION

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