

Celmisia bellidioides

COMMON NAME

green cushion mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia bellidioides Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELBEL

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: from Nelson and Marlborough to Southland.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in wet rocky and gravelly places in gorges and along streamsides. Often near waterfalls

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Creeping much-branched mat-forming herb; main stems slender to rather stout, slightly woody at base; branches much-divided, prostrate, rooting, clad in long persistent leaf-remnants; branchlets clad at apex in close rosettes of spreading living leaves. Lamina subcoriaceous, almost fleshy, glabrous, narrowly obovate-oblong to oblong to spatulate, 7-15 × 3-6 mm; upper surface dark green, glossy; lower paler; midrib impressed above, prominent below. Apex rounded; margins entire or sometimes obscurely toothed, narrowed to ± floccose sheath c.5 mm long. Scape slender, up to c.50 mm long, glabrous or with sparse white hairs; bracts numerous, narrow-linear, obtuse to subacute, lower up to c.10 mm long. Capitula c.20 mm diameter; involucre bracts green or pale-green, linear- to lanceolate-oblong, glabrous, thin, up to 10 mm. long. Ray-florets numerous, c.11 mm long; tube very slender, occasionally with sparse hairs; limb narrow-obovate. Disk-florets narrow-funnelform, c.6 mm long; teeth minute, triangular. Achenes compressed-cylindric, ribbed, 3-4 mm long, ± densely clad in short ascending silky hairs. Pappus-hairs up to 5 mm long, slender, white to rufous, very finely or hardly barbellate



Temple Basin, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to the naturally uncommon, Eyre Range endemic *Celmisia thomsonii* from which it is easily distinguished by its dark to light green, glossy upper leaf surfaces and uniformly white ray-florets. The upper leaf surface of *Celmisia thomsonii* is dull green, and the ray-florets are often tinged pink.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed. Can be grown by dividing established plants. Does best in a shaded site planted within a permanently moist, free draining soil.

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

bellidioides: Like Bellis, the English daisy

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.

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-bellidioides/>