

# Celmisia cockayneana

## COMMON NAME

Cockayne's mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia cockayneana* Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELCOC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island. Endemic: Marlborough

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Rupestral, in rock-crevices in shaded sites

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout subshrub; stems woody, c.100 mm diameter; branches stout, usually rather close-set, erect or ascending, clad in leaf-remains; living leaves rosulate at tips of branchlets. Lamina coriaceous, ± 40-100 × 10-15 mm; narrowly obovate-spathulate to obovate-oblong, subacute to obtuse, usually minutely apiculate; upper surface glabrous, veins ± distinct; lower surface clad in dense appressed white satiny tomentum, midrib dark, prominent; margins sinuate, distantly furnished with glandular denticles, narrowed cuneately to petiole then widening to nearly glabrous sheath c. 10 mm long. Scape rather slender to rather stout, 145-210 mm long, rather densely clad in viscid glandular hairs; bracts usually many; lower up to 30 mm long, leaf-like, ± lanceolate, apiculate; upper linear-oblong. Capitula 20-40 mm diameter; involucral bracts numerous, lower bractiform, ± 12 mm long, narrow lanceolate, acuminate, densely clad in glandular hairs; upper linear-subulate. Ray-florets ± 15 mm long, white, limb narrow-oblong; disk-florets tubular, c. 5-6 mm long, yellow. Achenes narrow-cylindric, ± compressed. 1.0-1.5 mm long; ribs very densely clad in short silky hairs. Pappus-hairs up to 6 mm long, off-white, hardly barbellate.



Marlborough. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 01/03/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Marlborough. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 01/03/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps closest to *Celmisia haastii* from which it is best distinguished by its longer leaves (400-100 × 10-15 mm cf. 30-80 × 10-250 mm), shorter sheath (10 mm cf. 20-30 mm) and extremely hairy rather than glabrous seeds. *Celmisia cockayneana* is endemic to Marlborough, while *C. haastii* ranges from about North Canterbury south.

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - March

## 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.

## THREATS

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

## 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

**cockayneana:** Named after Leonard Cockayne FRS (7 April 1855 - 8 July 1934) who is regarded as New Zealand's greatest botanist and a founder of modern science in New Zealand

## 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(4): 285-309.

## MORE INFORMATION

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