

Celmisia cordatifolia var. cordatifolia

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

Celmisia petiolata var. *cordatifolia* (Buchanan) Kirk

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia cordatifolia Buchanan var. *cordatifolia*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELCVC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution: Endemic. South Island: Wairau Mountains (Mounts Fishtail, Old Man, Rintoul) Bryant Range (Mt Starveall, Duppa), Ben Nevis.

HABITAT

Alpine (1300-1600 m a.s.l.). On skeletal soils and associated peat within rocky herbfield.



Mt Fishtail (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Habit. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 27/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based herb with short branchlets arising from a sparsely multicapital stock, usually just below the soil surface; living leaves in rosettes at the tips several rosettes. Leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted into a pseudostem. Leaf lamina 40-120 × 20-50 mm, coriaceous, at first erect but later decumbent, cordate to ovate; upper surface often sulcate, concolorous, yellowish to glaucous-green, glabrous or with scattered white hairs when young; lower surface thickly clad in felted, dull, deep buff to dark chocolate brown hairs: tip acute; margins entire, slightly to moderately recurved, often with a rim of ferruginous hairs; base prominently cordate; petiole up to twice lamina length, purple, covered in floccose ferruginous hairs. Scape purple, clad in dense ferruginous tomentum, up to 350 mm long; bracts numerous, erect, linear, monocephalous. Capitula up to 60 mm diameter. Phyllaries in several series, linear-subulate, erect, glabrous in lower part and densely brown-tomentose towards tip. Ray florets c. 25, ligulate, the limb linear-lanceolate, white. Disc florets c. 110, funneliform, yellow; tube with eglandular biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform cylindrical, ribbed, 4-5 mm long, glabrous. Pappus unequal, 5-6 mm long, of 25-30 bristles.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *Celmisia traversii* which is common south of the Wairau River. From that species *Celmisia cordatifolia* differs by its shorter leaves which are distinctly cordate, and yellowish- or glaucous-green rather than bright green. *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *similis*, a doubtfully distinct taxon differs from var. *cordatifolia* by its thinner and more pointed leaves whose lamina margins are prominently rather than weakly recurved, and by the tomentum of lower surface which is closely appressed, lustrous, and coloured pale buff rather than rather thickly felted, dull, and coloured deep buff to chocolate brown. *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *similis* is known only from a few gatherings all made from Mt Richmond in the Wairau Mountains. *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *brockettii* differs by the lanceolate-cordate rather than cordate-ovate leaf. Very little is known about var. *brockettii* which was not regarded as distinct by Given (1984) but seems every bit as distinctive as var. *similis* which he did accept.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably easy from fresh seed that has been cold treated. However, like many *Celmisia* probably difficult to maintain in warm or humid climates.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, narrow range endemic which though extremely localised is common in its few known localities and under no obvious human induced threats.

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

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (22 February 2009). Description based on Given (1984)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1984: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia* subgenus *Pelliculatae* section *Petiolatae* (Compositae—Astereae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 139-158.

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-cordatifolia-var-cordatifolia/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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