

# Celmisia cordatifolia var. similis

## COMMON NAME

Mt Richmond mountain daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *similis* W.Martin

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELCVS

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Wairau Mountains – Mt Richmond only.

## HABITAT

Alpine. Probably the same as *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia* (i.e. found growing on skeletal soils and associated peat within rocky herbfield).

## 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 lustrous, finely clad in pale buff hairs: tip sharply acute; margins entire, distinctly 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.



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## SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *C. cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia* except that the leaf is thinner and more pointed, the lamina margins are prominently rather than weakly recurved, and the tomentum of the lower surface is closely appressed, lustrous, and coloured pale buff rather than rather thickly felted, dull, and coloured deep buff. Although this variety was maintained by Given (1984) in that paper he noted that plants from Mount Fishtail also had similar narrow, sharply acute leaves. *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *brockettii* differs from var. *similis* and var. *cordatifolia* by the distinctly narrower lanceolate-cordate leaf.

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

December - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**similis:** Similar to another species

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

## ATTRIBUTION

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.

## MORE INFORMATION

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