

Celmisia haastii var. haastii

COMMON NAME

Haast's mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia haastii Hook.f. var. *haastii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELHVH

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, occurring south from about North Canterbury.

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. Inhabiting grassland, herbfield, fellfield and other moist rocky places.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather stout low-growing branching grey-green subshrub forming small to large patches; branchlets ascending to erect, lower parts covered by leaf remnants, upper part obscured by rosette-leaves. Lamina 30–80 × 10–28 mm, broadly elliptic-oblong to obovate-spathulate, subcoriaceous to coriaceous; upper surface glabrous, usually longitudinally furrowed, pale green; lower surface clad in closely appressed ± satiny tomentum, midrib tomentose but ± evident; apex obtuse to subacute; margins slightly recurved, very minutely distantly denticulate, cuneately narrowed to winged petiole c. 5 mm long. Sheath delicate, pale yellowish green, ± 20–30 × 5 mm; veins evident. Scape c. 50–150 mm long, densely tomentose to almost glabrous, rather stout to slender; bracts several or numerous, linear-subulate, acute to subacute, up to c. 2 mm long or more. Capitula 25–40 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear-lanceolate, membranous, softly hairy without, up to c. 12 mm long. Ray florets 15–20 mm long; limb narrow-oblong to narrow obovate-oblong, 3–5 toothed. Disk-florets funnelform, shortly 5-toothed, 6–8 mm long. Achenes narrow-cylindric, glabrous, 3–4 mm long. Pappus-hairs up to 5–6 mm long, very finely barbellate.



Pisa range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hector Mountains. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *C. discolor*, *C. incana*, *C. angustifolia*, *C. durietzii*, *C. lindsayi*, *C. bonplandii*, *C. hectorii* and *C. cockayneana*. Of these Allan (1961) considered it closest to *C. durietzii* and *C. cockayneana*. From *C. durietzii*, *C. haastii* differs by the glabrous achenes and longer, wider leaves (30-80 × 10-28 mm cf. 30-60 × 7-10 mm) and pale yellowish-green rather than translucent sheath. From *C. cockayneana* it differs by the glabrous rather than hairy achenes and shorter, broader leaves (30-80 × 10-28 mm cf. 40-100 × 10-15 mm). *Celmisia cockayneana* is a Marlborough endemic that grows well north of the range of *C. haastii*. For distinctions between *C. haastii* var. *haastii* and var. *tomentosa* see the factsheet for *C. haastii* var. *tomentosa*.

FLOWERING

October - January

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. Dislikes humidity.

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

haastii: Honours the New Zealand geologist and botanist Sir Julius von Haast (1822-87)

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: 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION

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