

Celmisia hieraciifolia var. gracilis

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia hieraciifolia var. *gracilis* Allan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Mount Hope, Ben Nevis, Mount Murchison).

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in grassland, herbfield, fellfield and debris slopes.



Hope Range, Kahurangi National Park.
Photographer: Chris Ecroyd, Date taken:
07/02/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower, Hope Range, Kahurangi National Park.
Photographer: Chris Ecroyd, Date taken:
08/02/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium tufted herb, stock usually simple, pseudo-stem \pm 40 mm long. **Lamina** coriaceous, c. 15–25 \times 2–4 mm; linear to very narrow-obovate; upper surface glabrous, sometimes slightly viscid, pale green when fresh; lower densely clad in closely appressed satiny pale yellow to buff or almost white tomentum, nerves conspicuous in lower part; subobtuse to obtuse, sometimes apiculate; margins entire or nearly so, teeth usually with distinct apiculus, slightly narrowed to broad grooved short petiole or directly into glabrous sheath c. 20 \times 10 mm. **Scape** slender, up to 120 mm long, glandular-pubescent. **Bracts** linear to subulate, glandular-pubescent, lower up to 40 mm long. **Capitula** 20–30 mm diameter; involucre bracts \pm 13 mm long, outer densely glandular-pubescent, linear-subulate, acute, midrib distinct, margins sometimes \pm floccose. **Ray-florets** numerous, c. 12 mm long, white, tube slender, limb narrow-linear. **Disk-florets** c. 7 mm long, tubular to narrow-funnelform, teeth narrow-triangular. **Achenes** c. 5 mm long, strongly ribbed, cylindrical to subfusiform; hairs usually few, weak. **Pappus-hairs** white to sordid-white, slender, up to c. 6 mm long, finely barbellate.

FLOWERING

October–January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably best grown from fresh seed and like many *Celmisia* this species will probably dislike high humidity and drying out.

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

hieraciifolia: Having foliage like Hieracium (genus name from the word for hawk)

gracilis: Slender

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The status of the three varieties of *C. hieraciifolia* needs critical investigation.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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