

Celmisia hieraciifolia var. hieraciifolia

COMMON NAME

mountain daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia hieraciifolia Hook.f. var. *hieraciifolia*

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 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. From the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges south to North Canterbury and Westland

HABITAT

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium tufted herb, stock usually simple, pseudo-stem ± 40 mm long. Lamina coriaceous, c.40-120 × 10-25 mm; oblong-obovate to elliptic-oblong; 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; obtuse, sometimes apiculate; margins crenate to crenate-dentate, teeth usually with distinct apiculus, slightly narrowed to broad grooved short petiole or directly into glabrous sheath c.20 × 10 mm Scape rather stout, 50-250 mm long, viscid with dense glandular hairs. Bracts linear to subulate, glandular-pubescent, lower up to 40 mm long. Capitula 20-50 mm diameter; involucre bracts ± 13 mm long, outer densely glandular-pubescent, linear-subulate, acute, midrib distinct, margins sometimes ± 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.



Mt Holdsworth. January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Richmond (Sounds-Nelson). Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 26/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - April

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

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)

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, 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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

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