

Celmisia macmahonii var. hadfieldii

COMMON NAME

Hadfield's rock daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia macmahonii var. *hadfieldii* W.Martin

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELMVH

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Wairau Mountains (Mounts Fishtail, Rintoul, Richmond, and Royal Knob)

HABITAT

Alpine. Restricted to rock-crevices and ledges along cliff faces

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small subshrub arising from a hard, woody, deeply descending rootstock. Plants forming compact cushions up to c. 400 mm diameter; stems and branches stout, woody; branchlets very densely compacted with living leaves held in dense rosettes at the branchlet apices. Lamina c.25-30 × 4-5 mm, linear-subulate, rigid, coriaceous; both surfaces densely clad in buff to ferruginous long subappressed silky hairs; apex apiculate; margins slightly narrowed to petiole c. 6-7 mm. long; sheath c.15 × 7 mm, adaxially distinctly veined, glabrate, abaxially sparsely hairy. Scape c. 75-130 mm long, densely clad in floccose buff to ferruginous tomentum; bracts numerous, crowded, 20 × 1-2 mm long, linear-subulate, ascending, surfaces floccose. Capitula 20-25 mm diameter; involucre bracts linear-subulate, up to c.12 mm long, acute to acuminate, densely clad on both surfaces in long silky buff hairs. Ray-florets ± 12-15 mm long, white; limb oblong, distinctly 3-toothed; disk-florets tubular, flaring at teeth, 5-7 mm long. Achenes compressed-cylindric, grooved, ± 2 mm long; ribs clad in long ascending hairs. Pappus-hairs up to c. 6 mm long, slender, white, finely barbellate



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

SIMILAR TAXA

C. macmahonii var. *macmahonii*, is very closely related, and differs mainly by its larger overall dimensions, and distinctly hairy leaves without apiculate apices. *Celmisia macmahonii* var. *macmahonii* is confined to Mt Stokes and nearby Macmahon

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

April - July

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from fresh seed and divisions of whole plants. Tricky and difficult to maintain in cultivation without specialist care and an alpine house.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

MORE INFORMATION

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