

# Celmisia morganii

## COMMON NAME

Ngakawau Gorge daisy

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Celmisia morganii* Cheeseman

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CELMOR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 108$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Vicinity of Ngakawau (Ngakawau River Gorge, Haggard Creek, Blackwater River)

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Riparia, in damp seepages and wet spots in rock talus above rivers and creeks, and on shaded, wet cliff faces along river gorges



In cultivation ex West Coast. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



A leaf apex viewed from below. In cultivation ex West Coast. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually close to soil surface; living leaves in large rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming irregular patches of numerous rosettes; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 150-350 × 18-30 mm, subcoriaceous or flaccid, older leaves weakly patent, lanceolate to oblong; upper surface finely sulcate, concolorous, dark green, glabrate or with a thin, scurfy greenish pellicle; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent and sometimes purple; tip acute; margins entire, slightly revolute; base ± gradually narrowed to a purple, ribbed petiole up to 80 mm long. Sheath up to 60 × 25 mm, purple (rarely greenish), clad in floccose, white hairs or glabrate. Scape purple, thinly clad in floccose, white hairs, slender, up to 300 mm long; bracts several in upper ½, erect, linear; monocephalous. Ray florets c.40, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets c.50, 6 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with long eglandular biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform, grooved, 3.0-4.5 mm long, glabrous or slightly hairy; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, c.6 mm long, of c.30 barbellate bristles.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Celmisia morganii* is allied to *Celmisia dubia*, *C. monroi*, and *C. semicordata*. From these species it is most likely to be confused with *C. monroi* from which it differs by the floppy rather than erect growth habit, leaves whose lamina is glabrate or with a scurfy, greenish rather than leaden pellicle.

## FLOWERING

September - July

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

October - August

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a shaded site, planted within a permanently moist, free draining, soil. Dislikes humidity and will not tolerate drying out. Best grown from fresh seed which should be sown immediately or stratified in a fridge or freezer for 1-3 months

## THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, narrow range endemic that is abundant within its few known locations. Although there are known major active threats the main population is located within a river system under investigation for a hydroelectric dam

## 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

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

*Celmisia morganii* is considered by some New Zealand botanists as indistinct being in their view simply a westerly outlier of *C. monroi*

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from Given (1980)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Given, D.R. 1980: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia coriacea* (Forst.f.) Hook.f. and its immediate allies (Astereae-Compositae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 18: 127-140.

## MORE INFORMATION

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