

Celmisia spedenii

COMMON NAME

Speden's Mountain Daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Celmisia spedenii G.Simpson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CELSPD

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 | Qualifiers: RR

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. West Dome and Livingston Range

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. An ultramafic endemic of sparsely vegetated rock strewn ground, fell field and rock outcrops.



West Dome, Mossburn. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



West Dome, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 26/04/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Woody-based perennial herb arising from a multicapital stock and forming small to large mats up to 1 m diameter. Leaf lamina linear, rigid, often curved; current seasons leaves soon becoming reflexed; 40.0-120.0 x 1.3-3.8 mm; upper surface corrugated, clad in persistent silvery pellicle; lower surface clad in cream appressed tomentum; margins entire, recurved but not right to midrib; tip acute and usually acicular with short hairs. Leaf sheath up to 35(-50) mm long, membranous, greenish or occasionally reddish, clad in a pellicle. Scape 100-150 x c.3 mm; bracts numerous, up to 35 mm long, densely white tomentose. Involucral bracts erect, linear-subulate, acute, up to 15 mm long, silvery-grey with white arachnoid hairs, venation simple. Receptacle obconic, surface alveolate. Ray florets up to 20 mm long, limb narrow, linear-lanceolate and glabrous, tube narrow and glabrous. In disc florets, tube gradually narrowed from apex to base, glabrous; stamen tip acute, anther tails short; style bifid, arms differentiated into a lower parallel-sided papillose portion about equal to the triangular appendage which bears short collecting hairs. Pappus bristles unequal, c. 30-35 in number, 5-6 mm long with closely spaced, short teeth. Achenes 3.0-4.5 mm long, fusiform, ribbed, glabrous.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *Celmisia markii* which is a species of south Westland and Fiordland that is not known from ultramafic habitats, which differs from *C. spedenii* by its straight rather than curved leaves, with obtuse rather than acicular leaf tips. The involucral bracts of *C. markii* are glabrate, tawny-brown while those of *C. spedenii* are silver-grey and tomentose

FLOWERING

December - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - February

LIFE CYCLE

Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown from seed but regular applications of magnesium to thrive.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon ultramafic endemic that is locally abundant in its few known locations.

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

spedenii: Named after James Speden who was a New Zealand explorer

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Lee and Given (1984)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lee, W.G.; Given, D.R. 1984: *Celmisia spedenii* G. Simpson, an ultramafic endemic, and *Celmisia markii*, sp. nov., from southern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 585-592.

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-spedenii/>