



Celmisia major var. *major*

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: West Auckland (Muriwai to Cornwallis (formerly Laingholm), Great Barrier Island (near Fitzroy – apparently extinct), Kaikoura Island, Aiguilles Island.

Habitat:

Strictly coastal, on rock headlands, cliff faces, and islets, where it usually grows in low turf on peaty or silty soils with *Disphyma*, *Tetragonia* and *Samolus*. Occasionally found in coastal shrublands.

Features*:

Tufted herb. Leaves (100-150-200(-400) x (5-)10(-20) mm, narrow-linear to lanceolate, tapering from sheath to an acute apex, sulcate, and plicate in cross-section, leathery, upper surface dark green, pellicle thin, often fracturing into irregular shards, leaving leaves with a somewhat silvery green, mottled appearance. Lower leaf surface densely clad in silvery white appressed hairs, midrib distinct and glabrescent. Leaf sheath pale, membranous, 60 mm long, nerves distinct, red or dark red, margins clad in floccose hairs. Inflorescence scape stout, long persistent, 200 mm or more in length, pellicled to floccose (cottony). Capitula 20-40 mm diam., phyllaries 20 mm, linear-subulate, acuminate, ciliate, glabrous on upper surface. Ray-florets white, numerous, 20 mm long. Disk florets yellow, 9 mm, funnellform, teeth narrow-triangular. Achenes narrow-cylindric, grooved, glabrescent 6-7 mm, pappus hairs 8 mm, white, slender, somewhat barbellate.

Flowering:

(August-) October-
November (-February)

Fruiting:

(October-) December
(-May)

Threats:

Habitat loss through the encroachment of taller and faster growing weeds, and coastal erosion. Several accessible populations have been damaged by trampling through human traffic to access popular viewing sites on headlands and near shore islets. Some sites have vanished altogether through, it would seem, overcollecting. Apparently always scarce on Great Barrier Island, this daisy now only persists in that island group in a single site on a very remote northerly location.

*Attribution:

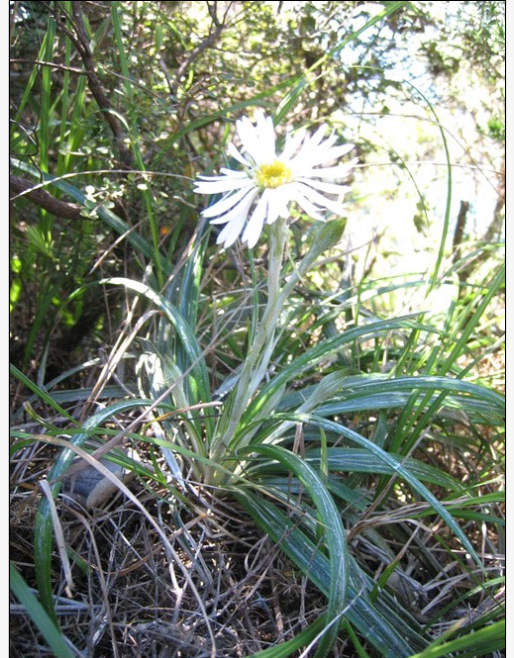
Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2009). Description adapted from Allan (1961)

References and further reading:

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=154



Caption: *Celmisia major* var. *major*
Photographer: Bec Stanley



Caption: Whatipu (December)
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth