



Celmisia semicordata subsp. *semicordata*

Common Name(s):

large mountain daisy

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson, Nelson Lakes National, Westland (to sea level at Charleston and Nine-Mile Bluff) to about Fiordland; becoming more common further south along and west of the Main Divide, but with outlier populations in the east near Hamner, Waiiau Valley, Lake Sumner, Puketeraki Range, Mount Peel, and the Hunters Hills.

Habitat:

Sea-level to Alpine. Occupying a wide range of sites and habitats though most abundant in subalpine and lower alpine shrub- and grassland. Seaward of the Paparoa Range at Charleston and Nine Mile Bluff it grows on steep bluffs and ledges at sea level, and in south Westland it occurs on outwash gravels at the foot of the mountains below 150 m altitude. It is sporadic in tall-tussock grassland especially on wetter sites. All three subspecies of *Celmisia semicordata*, often rapidly invade sites disturbed by burning, heavy grazing, and erosion.

Features*:

Stout woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually hidden; living leaves in large rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming an irregular sward-like patch; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudostem. Leaf lamina 110-420 × 22-70 mm, more or less coriaceous, at first erect but soon becoming patent, lanceolate to obovate; upper surface regularly sulcate, with flat or slightly recurved margin, more or less concolorous, masked by an obvious silver, slightly bronzed or greenish pellicle; lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent; tip acute; margins entire, flat or moderately recurved; base more or less cuneate, occasionally abruptly narrowed to the petiole. Petiole short. Sheath up to 120 × 0 mm, greenish or slightly purplish, clad in floccose white hairs. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 450 mm long; bracts several in upper 1/2, erect, < 100 mm long, margins revolute; usually monocephalous but occasionally with several capitula especially in cultivated specimens. Ray florets 200-250, ligulate, the limb narrow-linear, white. Disc florets 400-450, 8-9 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with long eglandular biseriate hairs in lower half. Achene fusiform, strongly grooved, 3.5-8.0 mm long, glabrous or slightly hairy; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, 5.5-8.0 mm long, of c.40 barbellate bristles.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

November - July

Threats:

Not Threatened

*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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1639



Caption: Young Range, Mt Aspiring National Park

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Lewis Pass

Photographer: Jane Gosden