



## *Celmisia semicordata* subsp. *stricta*

### Common Name(s):

large mountain daisy

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic: South Island: Mountains of western Otago and adjacent Southland (Eyre Mountains, western Garvie Mountains and Hector Range, Mid Dome, Cupola, Takitimu Mountains, Hunter Mountains). Probably also the Hokonui Hills and Blue Mountains.

### Habitat:

A prominent member of montane and subalpine grassland communities through its area of distribution especially where burning has disturbed native communities. It occupies a zone between the wetter mountains of Fiordland and Central Otago where *Celmisia semicordata* subsp. *aurigans* apparently replaces it.

### Features\*:

Stout woody-based much-branched herb forming large carpets 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 pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 110-320 × 20-40 mm, more or less coriaceous, at first erect but soon becoming patent, narrowly lanceolate to narrowly oblong-ovate; upper surface regularly sulcate, margin strongly recurved, more or less concolorous, masked by an extremely silvery pellicle (this sometimes becoming lead-coloured when old); lower surface densely covered in glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent; tip acute; margins entire, flat or moderately recurved; base cuneate, gradually tapered 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, very stout, up to 450 mm long; with numerous silvery bracts in upper 1/3, these erect, up to 150 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, slightly hairy; hairs short, appressed, bifid. Pappus unequal, 7-8 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=1641](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1641)



**Caption:** Caples Valley

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Steele Creek, Greenstone

**Photographer:** John Barkla