



Celmisia similis

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: North-West Nelson, north of the Buller Valley and west of the Motueka Valley and tributaries.

Habitat:

Alpine and subalpine. Usually associated with *Chionochloa australis*, *Celmisia traversii*, and *C. spectabilis*.

Features*:

Small slender cushion-forming subshrub with branchlets up to 60 mm long. Living leaves tending to be near the tips of the branchlets and sometimes forming small rosettes. Leaf lamina linear, apiculate, rigid, reflexed at the base, 10-20 × 1-2 mm; upper surface covered with a silvery to grey pellicle; lower surface with a loose scurfy grey tomentum; sheath ± 10 mm long. Scape 40.0-60.0 × 1.5 mm, reddish, clad in deciduous eglandular hairs. Involucral bracts erect, up to 9 mm long, margins fringed with short hairs, abaxial surface bearing many eglandular hairs. Receptacle obconic and alveolate. Capitulum 10-15 mm diameter. Ray florets ± 10 mm long, tube glabrous. In disc florets, corolla tube gradually narrowed from apex to base, glabrous; stamen tip acute, anther tails short; style bifid, the arms differentiated into a lower parallel-sided papillose portion and an upper attenuate portion bearing long collecting hairs. Pappus bristles unequal, up to 4.5 mm long, with distant or sometimes moderately close fine teeth. Achene 1.5-2.0 × 0.4 mm, fusiform, compressed, weakly ribbed and clad in bifid hairs.

Flowering:

December - February

Fruiting:

January - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Description based on Given (1980)

References and further reading:

Given, D.R. 1969: Taxonomic notes on the genus *Celmisia* (Compositae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 7: 389-399.

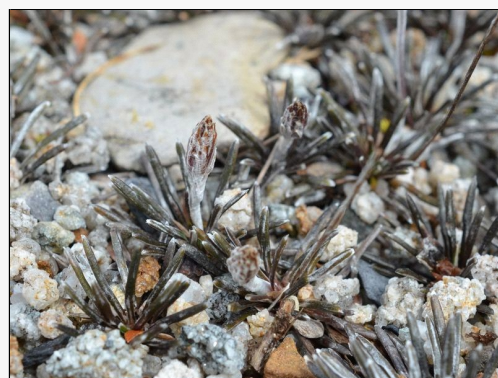
Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1643



Caption: Denniston Plateau
Photographer: Jane Gosden



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