



Celmisia spectabilis subsp. *magnifica*

Common Name(s):

cotton daisy, mountain daisy, shepherds tobacco

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: Big Ben Range and Acheron Valley just north of Rakaia River, south to the Hunters Hills and Mount Studholme.

Habitat:

Alpine and subalpine grassland and herbfield rocky sites

Features*:

Woody-based herb forming mats or cushions 2.0 m diameter; with branchlets arising from a usually hidden simple or multicapital stock. Living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole forming a cushion or mat. Leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudostem. Leaf lamina 70-290 × 1-45 mm, (ratio of length to width 5.6-10); coriaceous, usually lanceolate-oblong to narrowly ovate; upper surface shining and sulcate; lower surface densely covered in soft felted pale buff tomentum, midrib distinct; tip acute; margins entire and recurved, occasionally minutely toothed, with the lamina base cuneate to cuneate-truncate; sheath green to purple. Petiole thin with evident veins. Scape densely clad in floccose white hairs, stout, up to 300 mm long, bracteate, monocephalous. Corolla of disc florets and achenes often with uniseriate and biseriate hairs, mostly hairy, rarely glabrous. Ray florets 40-100, ligulate, white. Disc florets 60-200, 5-9 mm long, funneliform: tube glabrous or with scattered uniseriate or biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform cylindrical, grooved, 1.5-6.5 mm long, usually sparsely covered in bifid hairs, rarely glabrous. Pappus hairs 5-9 mm long, barbellate.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description based on Given (1984)

References and further reading:

Given, D.R. 1984: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia* subgenus *Pelliculatae* section *Petiolatae* (Compositae—Astereae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 139-158.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1645



Caption: Mount Somers. Feb 1982.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



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