



Celmisia verbascifolia subsp. *verbascifolia*

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: from about Amuri Pass south along and west of main divide to Fiordland; Also in scattered localities east of the main divide especially in central Canterbury.

Habitat:

A plant of high rainfall areas. In areas of ≥ 2500 mm rainfall it is commonly found in open herbfield and grassland but on mountains with less precipitation it is almost confined to cool south-facing, constantly moist sites such as shaded rocky slopes and the sides of gorges

Features*:

Woody-based herb with short branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually just below the soil surface; living leaves in few to numerous rosettes at the tips of branchlets; the whole plant forming a loose mat of rosettes. Leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted into a pseudostem. Leaf lamina up to $300 \times 12-70$ mm, usually coriaceous though often flaccidly so, leaves usually at first erect, becoming decumbent with age, elliptic, oblong, or occasionally obovate; upper surface sometimes obscurely sulcate, concolorous, pale to mid-green, glabrate or densely yellow-tomentose when young but hairs usually deciduous; lower surface dull, densely covered in a tomentum of cream to buff hairs, veins obscure; tip acute; margins entire, flat, with a very narrow rim of hairs slightly darker than those of lower surface; base obliquely cuneate to rounded, occasionally truncate; petiole short, up to about $2/3$ lamina length, green to purple, clad in floccose, whitish hairs. Scape purple, clad in whitish tomentum, up to 400 mm long; bracts numerous, erect, linear sometimes leaf-like; monocephalous. Capitula up to 60 mm diameter. Involucral bracts cream, tomentum, in several series, linear-subulate, erect, glabrate to silky tomentose. Ray florets 70-80, ligulate, the limb linear-lanceolate, white. Disc florets c. 130-170, funneliform, yellow; tube with eglandular, biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform-cylindric, ribbed, 4-5 mm long, glabrous or with scattered bifid hairs. Pappus unequal, c.6 mm long, of c. 20-30 bristles.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - March

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—Asteraceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 139-158.

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=1649



Caption: Craigieburn, Canterbury
Photographer: Jane Gosden



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