



## *Celmisia hookeri*

### Common Name(s):

Hooker's mountain daisy

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island Northern and eastern Otago from Moeraki and Shag Points inland through the Wainakarua River, Trotters Gorge, Otepopu River to the Horse Range and Macraes Flat; also by the Maitara River and between Mid Dome and Slaters Ranges. There are historical but unverified records from the Waitaki Valley.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane (0 - 450 m a.s.l.). A rupestral favouring open to partially shaded rocky headlands, bluffs, cliff faces, steep gullies and boulder field. Sometimes found under grey scrub but only in relatively open situations.

### Features\*:

Stout, woody based herb with short branchlets arising from a weakly multicapital, partially buried rootstock. Leaves in dense rosettes at branchlet apices; the whole plant forming a mat of rosettes. Leaf-sheaths greenish-purple, persistent, densely imbricate and compacted to form a pseudostem. Petioles 1/4-1/2 lamina length, pale or deep purple, often with a thin covering of pale lustrous pale hairs which are floccose towards base. Lamina 120-400 x 40-90 mm, oblanceolate to elliptic, upper surface yellow to pale green with greenish-purple midrib; upper surface initially hairy, becoming glabrate to glabrous with age (except for margins), veins impressed; lower surface densely covered in lustrous indumentum of pale buff or creamy hairs, veins distinct; apex acute, margins entire, not recurved, with a broad rim of whitish to buff hairs; base obliquely cuneate; lamina coriaceous, initially erect, tending to suberect or decumbent with age. Scape up to 500 mm long, purplish, covered in pale indumentum, bracteate, bracts numerous, erect, linear, foliaceous. Capitula solitary, up to 100 mm diameter. Involucral bracts in several rows, linear-subulate, erect, densely brown-tomentulose. Ray florets up to 80, ligulate, limbs linear-lanceolate, white. Disc florets up to 250, funneliform, yellow; tube covered with eglandular biseriate hairs. Achene 5 mm long, fusiform-cylindric, ribbed, glabrous. Pappus unequal, 9 mm long, of between 35-40 bristles.

### Flowering:

September - December

### Fruiting:

October - April

### Threats:

A widespread, at times locally common but usually sparsely distributed species. Its cliff, bluff and gorge habitats could be relictual and it is possible that past fires and animal browse has confined this species to these habitats. However, there appear to be few existing threats, populations appear stable, and as there is no direct proof of past decline this species best fits the concept of a sparse defined by the New Zealand Threat Classification System.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2009). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Given (1984).

### References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

Given, D. R. 1984: A taxonomic revision of *Celmisia* subgenus *Pelliculatae* section *Petiolatae* (Compositae -- Astereae). *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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=239](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=239)



**Caption:** *Celmisia hookeri*

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** *Macraea*, Otago

**Photographer:** John Barkla