



Celmisia insignis

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: drainage basins of the Waihopai, Spray, Avon, Omaka, and Blairich Rivers between the Wairau and Awatere Rivers in Marlborough.

Habitat:

Lowland to alpine, on rock faces and bluffs near streams or around rock outcrops in tussock grassland.

Features*:

Woody-based herb with branchlets arising from a multicipital stock at ground level; living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets, the whole plant forming small patches of several rosettes; leaf sheaths densely imbricate and compacted, forming a pseudo-stem. Leaf lamina 120-270 x 5-7 mm, coriaceous, erect or slightly curved, linear; upper surface with a prominent medial groove, somewhat sulcate in some plants, concolorous, dull green with an glistening appressed tomentum, midrib prominent; tip acute; margins entire, revolute. Petiole short. Sheath up to 80 x 15 mm, greenish or slightly yellowish, clad in floccose white hairs. Scape clad in appressed white hairs, stout, up to 300 mm long; bracts numerous, erect, up to 4 cm long, margins revolute; monocephalous. Ray florets c.70, ligulate, the limb linear-spathulate, white. Disc florets 100-150, 7-8 mm long, funneliform, yellow, tube with long eglandular hairs. Achene more or less fusiform, grooved, 5-9 mm long, glabrous or rarely with a few short appressed bifid hairs. Pappus unequal, 6-9 mm long, of 30-40 barbellate bristles.

Flowering:

October - March

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

A naturally uncommon species that does not appear to be actively threatened. However, its preference for lower altitude habitats within a region that is becoming ever increasingly popular for growing grape vines means that some populations are now potentially at risk through land conversion. Some large populations occur at higher altitudes where this species is less likely to be threatened in the long-term.

*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=420



Caption: Bounds, Leatham River
Photographer: Simon Moore



Caption: Black Birch Range. Jan 2006.
Photographer: Colin Ogle