



## *Celmisia mackaui*

### Common Name(s):

Banks Peninsula Daisy, Akaroa Daisy

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Banks Peninsula only

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane: Usually found in damp, rocky places, especially along precipitous south-facing bluffs and waterfalls. Occasional extending into tussock grassland, and on sheltered rocky outcrops. Occasional found in seepages amongst Phormium.

### Features\*:

Woody-based herb with short branchlets arising from a multicapital stock, usually just below the soil surface; living leaves in rosettes at the tips of branchlets; the whole plant forming a loose mat of numerous rosettes. Leaf sheaths densely imbricate, and compacted into a pseudostem. Leaf lamina 100-700 × 15-75 mm, somewhat flaccid, erect but tending to spread, lanceolate to narrow-elliptic; upper surface concolorous, bright to dark green, veins obvious; lower surface glabrous, glaucous green; tip acute; margins entire, often slightly recurved; base cuneate; petiole short, to 1/3 length of lamina, usually deep purple, glabrous or with scattered whitish hairs. Scape purple, up to 650 mm long; bracts numerous, erect, subulate, somewhat leafy; monocephalous. Capitula up to 50 mm diameter. Involucral bracts in several series, subulate, erect, glabrous. Ray florets 60-70, ligulate, the limb more or less linear, creamy white often tinged violet when capitulum first open. Disc florets c.200, funneliform, yellow; tube with eglandular biseriate hairs. Achene fusiform-cylindric, strongly ribbed, c.5 mm long, glabrous. Pappus unequal, c.7 mm long, of 55-60 bristles.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon narrow range endemic, that is locally widespread in the small part of Banks Peninsula from which it is known. Some populations are in decline as a natural consequence of vegetation succession to taller forest, this species having temporarily expanded its range into habitats created by past logging, fires and attempts at farming.

### \*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.

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=422](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=422)



**Caption:** *Celmisia mackaui*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** *Celmisia mackaui*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla