



## *Celmisia spedenii*

### Common Name(s):

Speden's Mountain Daisy

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island. West Dome and Livingston Range

### Habitat:

Montane to alpine. An ultramafic endemic of sparsely vegetated rock strewn ground, fell field and rock outcrops.

### Features\*:

Woody-based perennial herb arising from a multicapital stock and forming small to large mats up to 1 m diameter. Leaf lamina linear, rigid, often curved; current seasons leaves soon becoming reflexed; 40.0-120.0 x 1.3-3.8 mm; upper surface corrugated, clad in persistent silvery pellicle; lower surface clad in cream appressed tomentum; margins entire, recurved but not right to midrib; tip acute and usually acicular with short hairs. Leaf sheath up to 35(-50) mm long, membranous, greenish or occasionally reddish, clad in a pellicle. Scape 100-150 x c.3 mm; bracts numerous, up to 35 mm long, densely white tomentose. Involucral bracts erect, linear-subulate, acute, up to 15 mm long, silvery- grey with white arachnoid hairs, venation simple. Receptacle obconic, surface alveolate. Ray florets up to 20 mm long, limb narrow, linear-lanceolate and glabrous, tube narrow and glabrous. In disc florets, tube gradually narrowed from apex to base, glabrous; stamen tip acute, anther tails short; style bifid, arms differentiated into a lower parallel-sided papillose portion about equal to the triangular appendage which bears short collecting hairs. Pappus bristles unequal, c. 30-35 in number, 5-6 mm long with closely spaced, short teeth. Achenes 3.0-4.5 mm long, fusiform, ribbed, glabrous.

### Flowering:

December - February

### Fruiting:

December - February

### Threats:

A naturally uncommon ultramafic endemic that is locally abundant in its few known locations.

### \*Attribution:

Description from Lee and Given (1984)

### References and further reading:

Lee, W.G.; Given, D.R. 1984: *Celmisia spedenii* G. Simpson, an ultramafic endemic, and *Celmisia markii*, sp. nov., from southern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 585-592.

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=432](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=432)



**Caption:** West Dome, Southland

**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell



**Caption:** West Dome, Mossburn

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft