

Gustaf Einar Du Rietz (1895 – 1967)

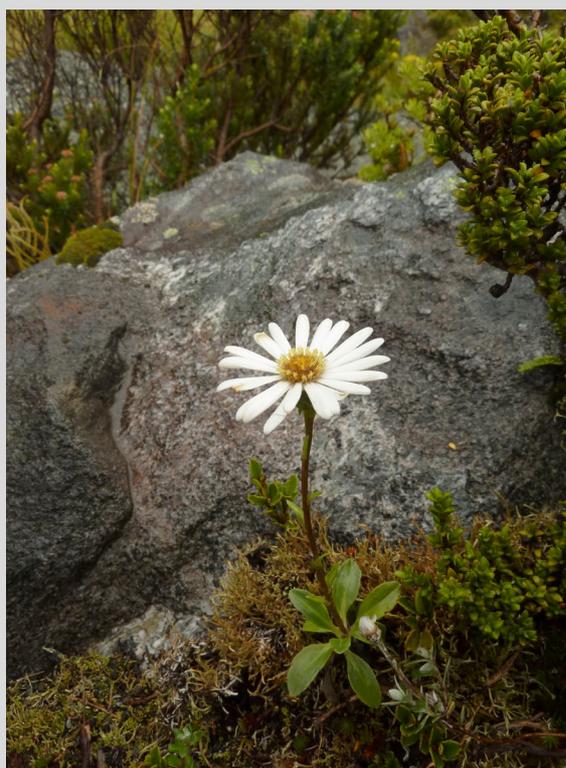
Swedish botanists with New Zealand connections date back to Captain Cook's *Endeavour* voyage of 1768–1771, when Daniel Solander accompanied Joseph Banks as his companion and naturalist. The visit of Einar and Greta Du Rietz in 1926–1927 was the catalyst for modern New Zealand lichenology.

Gustaf Einar Du Rietz was born in Sandvik, Bromma, on 25 April 1895, the son of master engineer Hjalmar Du Rietz and Charlotta (Lotten) Sophia Mathilda Kullman. After finishing school in Stockholm, Einar entered the University of Uppsala, where he was to spend his entire professional career. He gained his PhD in 1922, was appointed curator of the botanical museum in 1924, and on 7 June the same year married his professor's daughter, Greta Sernander. Two daughters and a son were born in 1928 and 1935.

Einar Du Rietz had a wide range of botanical interests. One of his specialties was lichens, and by 1925 he had already published 25 papers on lichenology as well as several on plant geography and sociology. His growing interest in the bipolar distribution of various plant groups, and correspondence with Cockayne and Allan in New Zealand, led to his 1926–1927 botanical expedition to the Southern Hemisphere, undertaken with his wife Greta, who was interested in lichens also, and a skilled photographer. During a stay of six months in New Zealand, they travelled widely from Northland to the subantarctic islands, and collected over 4000 specimens of both the higher plants and lichens. They made many friends, and their enthusiasm and example inspired local botanists to study lichens in more depth.

Shortly after their return to Uppsala, Du Rietz was appointed deputy professor, and in 1934 professor of plant ecology, succeeding his teacher and father-in-law Rutger Sernander. His research changed direction and he had little time to work on his Southern Hemisphere lichen collections. In 1951 he married Jane Ulla Margareta Witting, 25 years his junior, and in 1962 he retired. His pupils dedicated a study, *The Plant Cover of Sweden*, to him on his 70th birthday in 1965. Gustaf Einar Du Rietz died at Uppsala on 7 March 1967; his first wife Greta died in 1981.

Although a detailed account of their work in New Zealand was never published, Du Rietz encouraged H H Allan to correspond and exchange specimens with other leading European lichenologists, facilitating access to expert knowledge previously denied local botanists. Other lichenologists have also been able to make use of Du Rietz's collections and notes in their studies – a month at Uppsala in 1974 was pivotal to the career of David Galloway whose *Flora of New Zealand Lichens* was published in 1985 (2nd edition 2007). Seven New Zealand lichens and a *Celmisia* honour the contribution made to New Zealand botany by Greta and Gustaf Einar Du Rietz.



Celmisia durietzii

Celmisia durietzii is a variable spreading subshrub of single or several packed rosettes forming patches of grey-green foliage up to 1 metre across. It has thin, elongated, usually sticky leaves (3–6 cm x 7–10 mm), the upper surface glabrous and smooth; the lower surface covered with soft white hairs, except for the prominent midrib. Flower stalks are typically purple with a prominent yellow-centred white daisy head. It is widespread in the mountains of the higher rainfall regions of the South Island. On Rakiura/Stewart Island a thicker-leaved form is locally common on Mt Anglem.