



## *Pimelea aridula* subsp. *aridula*

### Common Name(s):

Pimelea

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Declining

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: Waitaki Valley and central Otago, in Kawerau, Clutha, and lower Manuherikia Valleys

### Habitat:

Montane to subalpine. Characteristic of schist country where it grows on schist outcrops and rocky hillsides especially on soils derived from schist

### Features\*:

A robust, upright, stiff-stemmed shrub, up to 1 m tall. Long-stemmed plants may be fastigiata; short-stemmed plants often have more divergent branches. Branching mainly sympodial. Main stems stiff or flexible. Young branchlets brown, moderately to densely covered with long hair; internodes 0.5-2.0 mm; old stems at the base may be stout (= 10 mm diameter), grey-brown, glabrous. Node buttresses lunate, brown, hairy, often masked by hairs on young stems, moderately conspicuous on leafless stems. Leaves usually decussate, on short, red petioles (0.5 mm), rarely alternate on some young branchlets, ascending, loosely imbricate. Lamina 8-12 × 2-3 mm, medium green, slightly adaxially concave, narrow-ovate, acute, base cuneate, both surfaces often densely covered by long, fine hispid, appressed dull to shining white or yellowish, usually penicillate hairs. Stomata on both leaf surfaces.

Inflorescences terminal, 5-10-flowered, sometimes in small clusters. Involucral bracts similar in size to adjacent leaves or slightly wider (8.0-10 × 3.2 mm), partly hiding the flowers. Receptacle densely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short pedicels (0.5 mm), tube densely hairy outside, sparsely so inside. Female tube 3.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 0.6 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6.5 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 2.5 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary hairy from summit to two thirds of the way down. Fruits ovoid, dry, brown, 4.0 × 2.3 mm. Seeds ovoid 4.0 × 2.1 mm.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

January - April

### Threats:

Field surveys indicate that *Pimelea aridula* subsp. *aridula* populations mostly comprise mature plants and at few places are seedlings and juveniles seen. For this reason *P. aridula* (at species rank) was listed as "Declining" by de Lange et al. (2009). Despite the species recircumscription to comprise two subspecies by Burrows (2011) the comments he offers in his paper for *P. aridula* subsp. *aridula* remain unchallenged here.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 September 2011). Description from Burrows (2011)

### References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2011: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 5. The taxonomic treatment of five endemic species with both adaxial and abaxial leaf hair. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 367-412.

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61-96

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1119](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1119)



**Caption:** Flowers, Flat Top Hill, Alexandra

**Photographer:** John Barkla



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