



## *Pimelea buxifolia*

### Common Name(s):

Pimelea

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Coromandel Peninsula; Mt Hikurangi and Raukumara Ranges; Volcanic Plateau; Kaimanawa, Kaweka, Ruahine, and Tararua Ranges)

### Habitat:

Montane to alpine. Usually on acidic volcanic rocks such as rhyolite and allied pyroclastic ejecta. Mainly found as a dominant to subdominant component of shrubland-grassland, sparse scrub within tussock grassland, occasionally forming monospecific shrubland

### Features\*:

A much-branched, erect shrub up to 1 m tall. Branches and branchlets ascending; branchlets muricate, clad in short, villous, often brownish, hairs. Node buttresses short (0.5 mm), lunate, dark brown or black, and may be prominent after leaf fall. Internodes 2–4 mm long. Bark grey-brown, aging to grey or black. Leaves decussate, usually uniform in size, imbricate, ascending, later patent, on petioles 0.5–1.0 mm long. Lamina dull green, olive green to bronze-green, thick and coriaceous, 5–10 × 3–5 mm, elliptic to ovate, keeled, acute (often blunt-pointed), sometimes obtuse, base cuneate to angustate. Margins thickened, slightly down-turned; midvein prominent below; lateral vein pattern camptodromous but often obscure; stomata only on under sides. Inflorescences few to many-flowered, pedicels 0.3 mm long, persistent. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as leaves or broader (10 × 7 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers hairy on outside; inside sparsely hairy in tube, hairless in ovary portion; fragrant, white or faint pink or rarely deep pink, lower tube red. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube to 5.5 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2.5 × 1.3 mm, staminodes short, at mouth of tube. Female tube to 10 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 3.5 × 2 mm. Anther filaments inserted below mouth of tube; anthers golden yellow. Ovary with abundant hair at summit and sparsely hairy to base. Fruits ovoid, green, drying brown, 4.2 mm long. Seeds ovoid 3.8 × 1.7 mm. Dried hypanthia persistent dispersing with fruits inside.

### Flowering:

September - May

### Fruiting:

November - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2008). Description adapted from Burrows (2008)

### References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2008: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 1. The taxonomic treatment of seven endemic, glabrous-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 45: 127-176.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1120](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1120)



**Caption:** Mt Ruapehu, January  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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