



Pimelea oreophila subsp. *oreophila*

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Canterbury, Westland, Otago (mostly western but also sparse central), western Southland and Fiordland

Habitat:

Montane to alpine, in open forest near the treeline, in tall and short tussock grassland associated with a wide range of other small grasses, forbs, dwarf shrubs and some medium height shrubs. Usually above the treeline but also at lower levels (500 m or less) in places where frosts are severe in valley floors and where forest has been removed by fire.

Features*:

Procumbent, trailing shrub, with few to many, moderately thick (2.5–3.5 mm), flexible light brown young stems these covered invested with a moderate cover of short, appressed hairs; internodes 2.5–5.0 mm, node buttresses usually lunate, sometimes elongate. Older stems up to 6.0 mm diameter, 100–500 mm long, occasionally with adventitious roots, sometimes climbing in upright shrubs. Reduced in stature on exposed sites with rocky substrates, sometimes forming short-stemmed, appressed rosettes. Branching mainly sympodial. Young stems brown, moderately densely covered in short or moderately long, white, grey or sometimes yellowish appressed hair cover; older stems darker brown, glabrate. Internodes of young stems 1–5 mm long. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, or sometimes extending the full length of internodes, with bands of hair between; usually not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, on short (0.5–1.0 mm), often red petioles, ascending at first, usually becoming patent, often with a distichous appearance on prostrate stems. Lamina 4–8 × 2–4 mm, glaucous or medium to dark green, usually elliptic, sometimes ovate, adaxially concave and slightly keeled, mid-vein evident; tip acute but usually blunt-pointed, sometimes obtuse; base cuneate; abaxially bearing sparse, short, white to dull-white hairs along lamina margins, mid-veins and tips; with or without an apical coma, often becoming glabrous as leaves age; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 5–15-flowered, receptacle densely covered in short hairs. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as ordinary leaves, or larger (6 × 4 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, fragrant, on short pedicels (0.3 mm) densely covered with short hairs outside; inside hairless. Female tube 2.5–4.0 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 1–2 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4–6 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.0–3.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with dense clump of short or long hairs at summit. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, orange or red, 4 × 3 mm. Seeds ovoid 2.7 × 2.3 mm.

Flowering:

September - February

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (28 April 2011). Description adapted from Burrows (2011).

References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2011: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 4. The taxonomic treatment of ten endemic abaxially hairy-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 41–106.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1124



Caption: Mt Luxmore, Fiordland

Photographer: Jesse Bythell



Caption: *Pimelea oreophila*

Photographer: Sandra
Wotherspoon