



Pimelea sericeovillosa subsp. *pulvinaris*

Common Name(s):

Cushion Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: Mid Canterbury (Mackenzie Basin), south Canterbury and western central Otago. Formerly in the lower Waitaki valley near Kurow.

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine. In Valley and basin floors occupying dry, windswept places, usually with stony substrates and fine-textured, loess-derived matrix, within short vegetation cover. Often on moraine crests, as well as alluvial fans and river terraces.

Features*:

Low, compact, much-branched, pale green cushion-forming shrublet to 50 × 250 mm. with brown, tightly packed, appressed, leafy, densely villous young branchlets (older stems usually not visible but retaining dead leaves which cover branchlets inside the cushion). Internode length 0.3-0.6 mm. Branching mainly sympodial and radiating from a stout main stem up to 15 mm in diameter. Node buttresses lunate, dark brown, masked by hairs on young stems, not prominent on leafless branchlets. Leaves decussate, ascending, imbricate, sessile or with very short petioles (0.2 mm). Lamina medium to pale green, elliptic to oblong, 2.2-4.0 × 1.0-1.3 mm, adaxially concave, mid-vein not evident, abaxial surface densely covered with straight, white or greyish-white, moderately long hairs; adaxial surface moderately densely hairy, sometimes glabrate (the youngest leaves have more or less dense adaxial vestiture), obtuse, base cuneate, stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, with 1 or 2, sometimes 3, flowers. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as, or slightly wider than adjacent leaves (2.3 × 1.5 mm). Receptacle usually with abundant long hairs. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers 1(-2) per inflorescence, white, on very short (0.1 mm) pedicels, very hairy outside, inside hairless. Female tube 2.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.0-1.2 × 0.5 mm; hermaphrodite tube 3-4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 0.8-1.0 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with dense short hairs on summit, less dense to half way down. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, yellow or pale orange 2.5-3.0 × 1.8-2.0 mm, seeds narrow-ovoid 2.0-2.2 × 1.0-1.3 mm.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

See comments about the "Conservation Status" opinions and their validity as offered by Burrows (2011) under the Fact Sheet for *Pimelea sericeovillosa* subsp. *sericeovillosa*. As *P. pulvinaris* this subspecies was listed as "Declining" by de Lange et al. (2009). This assessment is probably still appropriate but due to the recircumscription of *P. sericeovillosa* to comprise three subspecies this assessment may need to change.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (29 September 2011). Description adapted from Burrows (2011).

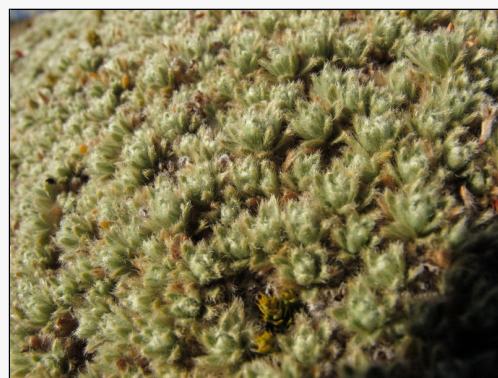
References and further reading:

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=1126



Caption: Long Gully, Wanaka
Photographer: John Barkla



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