



Pimelea sericeovillosa subsp. sericeovillosa

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: Marlborough and North Canterbury

Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine. Usually in open fell-field on mountain tops, ridge crests and in open stonefields. occasionally found at lower levels in short short-tussock grassland.

Features*:

A low, much-branched, loose cushion-forming shrublet to 50 × 250 mm. with brown, clustered, appressed, leafy, densely villous young branchlets, and with older, gnarled, leafless stems often visible (these often leafless and glabrous, dark brown to black, often partly buried by windblown silt or sand). 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 very densely covered with curled (sometimes straight), yellowish or dull-white, moderately long hairs; adaxial surface less densely hairy, sometimes glabrate (the youngest leaves have more or less dense adaxial vesture), 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, 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:

Burrows (2011) rates the status of all three *Pimelea sericeovillosa* subspecies as "precarious to varying degrees". However, no data is provided to show this, nor is the New Zealand Threat Classification system (NZTCS) (Townsend et al. 2008) used for his assessments, rather Burrows consistently confuses the NZTCS with listings provided by Hitchmough et al. (2007). Burrows (2011) also uses the ranking of Molloy et al. (2001) which is superseded by Townsend et al. (2008). Currently *Pimelea sericeovillosa* s.s. has no threat listing (see de Lange et al. 2009). Based on the recircumscription of *P. sericeovillosa* by Burrows (2011) an interim status of "Data Deficient" for all the subspecies may be necessary until all the subspecies are assessed by an appropriate threat listing panel.

*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.

Hitchmough R, Bull L, Cromarty P (compilers) 2007. *New Zealand threat classification system lists - 2005*. Wellington: Department of Conservation, Scientific Publishing.

Molloy, J.; Bell, B.; Clout, M.; de Lange, P.; Gibbs, G.; Given, D.; Norton, D.; Smith, N.; Stephens, T. 2001: *Classifying species according to threat of extinction – a system for New Zealand*. Wellington, Department of Conservation.

Townsend, A.J.; de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Molloy, J.; Miskelly, C.; Duffy, C. 2008: *The New Zealand Threat Classification System manual*. Wellington, Department of Conservation



Caption: Rachael Range, Molesworth

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: *Pimelea sericeovillosa*, Rachael Range, Molesworth.

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