



Pimelea traversii subsp. *traversii*

Common Name(s):

Travers Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough, Canterbury, and Central Otago).

Habitat:

In the drier parts of the eastern South Island where it is usually found on arenite or very rarely on limestone. A common species of montane to alpine regions where it grows on rock outcrops and stable stone fields, moraines, landslides, and sometimes in grey scrub or grassland

Features*:

A much-branched small to medium-sized shrub up to 600 mm tall. Branches erect and fastigiata; branchlets hairy at leaf axils and on receptacles, internodes glabrous or sometimes very sparsely hairy (in strips not covered by node buttress tissue). Node buttresses occupy the whole or most of the internode, medium to dark brown or black, usually prominent after leaf fall, stems aging grey-brown, grey or black. Internodes 1–4 mm long. Leaves decussate, ascending to patent, often closely imbricate, on very short petioles (0.2 mm) or sessile. Lamina medium olive green, sometimes red-margined, thick and coriaceous, broad elliptic to broad ovate, sometimes oblong or obovate, 3–6 × 2–4 mm, slightly keeled, concave above, obtuse, base angustate or cuneate. Margins thickened, slightly down-turned; midvein evident on under side, lateral veins obscure. Stomata evident only on under sides. Inflorescences many-flowered, pedicels 0.2 mm long, persistent. Involucral bracts 4, usually wider than the leaves (6–9 × 4–8 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers hairy on outside; inside densely hairy in ovary portion and lower tube, sometimes sparsely hairy in upper tube; fragrant, white, sometimes pinkish with red lower tube. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube narrow to 6 mm long, ovary portion 1.0–1.5 mm, calyx lobes 1.0–2.0 × 1.3 mm. Staminodes short, at mouth of tube. Female tube to 9 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 4 × 2.2 mm; anther filaments inserted below mouth of tube; anthers yellow. Ovary with abundant hair at summit, less densely hairy to about half-way down. Fruits ovoid, green, drying brown, 4 mm long. Seeds ovoid, 3.5 × 1.6 mm. Dried hypanthia persistent and dispersing with fruits inside.

Flowering:

October – April

Fruiting:

December - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description based on 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=1128



Caption: Ben Dhu Scientific Reserve

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Dry River, Tresslick Basin.

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft