



Pimelea telura

Common Name(s):

Three Kings Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Three Kings Islands (Manawa Tawhi (Great Island));

Habitat:

On Basalt cliffs, rubble slopes and deeply weather basaltic soils. Usually in sparsely vegetated sites or in low windswept scrub dominated by kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium* var. *incanum*), *Hebe insularis*, taupata (*Coprosma repens*), *Disphyma australe* subsp. *australe*, and ferns.

Features*:

Shrubs, to 1 × 1 m with thick, rather stiff stems, decumbent to suberect or erect. Branches stout, numerous, sympodial. Young branchlets densely covered with appressed, short, white, villous hair, older stems less hairy, pale brown maturing grey. Node buttresses short (0.2 mm), lunate, hidden by hair on young branchlets, prominent after leaf fall. Internode length 1.5–3 mm. Leaves decussate, crowded on young branchlets, on short, brown petioles (0.5–0.8 mm), ascendant, becoming patent or deflexed. Lamina glabrous, glaucous to yellow-green glaucescent, 8–14 × 3–6 mm, leathery, flat to slightly adaxially concave, to cymbiform, ovate to narrow ovate or broad elliptic to narrow elliptic, acute to slightly acuminate (but blunt-pointed), base cuneate. Stomata only on adaxial side. Inflorescences crowded, compact, 3–8-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, ovate to elliptic 8–12 × 4–5 mm. Receptacle very hairy. Plants bisexual. Flowers creamy white, on very short pedicels (0.3 mm). Outside of tube and calyx lobes densely covered with hair; inside hairless or sometimes with sparse hair; tube to 5 mm long, ovary portion 4 mm long, with vertical “stripes” of hair when dry, calyx lobes 3 × 2 mm. Anthers yellow. Ovary summit with dense short hair, extending two-thirds of the way to the base. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, creamy white (sometimes basally flushed pink), 6 × 3 mm. The hypanthium breaks off, irregularly, near the base as the fruits ripen. Seed broad-pyriform, with very thin crest, 3.5 × 2.0 mm.

Flowering:

October – July

Fruiting:

October – July

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted, often sparsely distributed island endemic under no obvious threats. At a few places, such as Bald Hill, Great Island, hybrids between *P. telura* and a member of the *P. urvilleana* complex have been found. This is one of the few places where the distribution of these two species overlaps on the Three Kings archipelago. Previously recorded as *Pimelea* aff. *tomentosa* (c) (AK 228145; Three Kings) in de Lange et al., 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants on New Zealand, *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.

*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=2374



Caption: South West Island, December 1995

Photographer: Peter de Lange



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