



Pimelea traversii subsp. *exedra*

Common Name(s):

none known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Western Southland, where apparently confined to the Livingstone Mountains (Mt Cerberus))

Habitat:

Montane. On stable, ultramafic scree and amongst boulders.

Features*:

A much-branched small to medium sized, spreading shrub up to 150 mm tall. Branches spreading; branchlets spreading or upright, with very short, sparsely hairy internodes. Node buttresses occupy the whole or most of the internode, dark brown, 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 small light olive green, sometimes red-margined, thick and coriaceous, broad elliptic to broad ovate, sometimes oblong or obovate, 3–9 × 2–6 mm, slightly keeled, concave above, obtuse, base angustate or cuneate. Margins thickened, slightly down-turned; midvein evident on under side, lateral veins obscure. Stomata only on abaxial side. 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 with reddish bases and tube. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube to 6 mm long, ovary portion 4 mm, calyx lobes 2.5 × 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. Hermaphrodite flower tubes 2–3 mm wide just below calyx lobes, calyx lobes 3–4 mm wide. 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:

First recognised in June 2008. Very little is known about this plant. It is currently known from one small area of the ultramafic rocks on the Livingstone Range where it is said to be very uncommon. However, the habitat occupied by the plant is widespread on the mountains so further survey is needed to determine its exact status.

*Attribution:

Description based on: Burrows (2008).

References and further reading:

Description based on: 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=2376