



Pimelea prostrata subsp. seismica

Common Name(s):

pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: North Cape and near Cape Reinga, scattered along the west coast of the North Island to Auckland, Wellington. South Island: North-west to as far south as Cape Foulwind.

Habitat:

Coastal to slightly inland. In open sites on grassy slopes and in shrublands or dunes, on cliffs or rock outcrops.

Features*:

A small to medium-sized, much-branched, prostrate, sometimes decumbent, low shrub. Main stems to 40 cm long, stout, flexible or stiff. Young stems brown, moderately or very hairy. Branching is both sympodial and lateral and the laterals are few to numerous, long, usually flexible and moderately thick. Internodes 1–5 mm long. Older stems glabrous and grey-brown to dark-brown. Node buttresses usually short (0.3 mm) lunate, brown. More elongate node buttresses may occur on the same plants. They are not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves ascendant, then patent to deflexed, on short (0.3–0.5 mm) red petioles. Lamina ovate, elliptic or often oblong, 4–8 × 2.2–3.2 mm, light green, glaucous, acute or sometimes obtuse, flat or slightly adaxially concave, margins slightly upturned, midvein evident abaxially. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 4–6-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, smaller than, or similar in size to adjacent leaves (5 × 3 mm). Flowers white, moderately hairy outside; inside hairless. Female tube 3.5 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 1.3 × 0.9 mm; Perfect flower tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1 mm. Ovary has sparse hair on summit and to about two-thirds of the way down. Fruits oblate, white, opaque 5.4 × 4 mm. Seeds broad ovoid 2.2 × 1.6 mm.

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

Unknown. Burrows (2009) implies it is severely threatened but without any backing evidence. In future threat listings subsp. *seismica* would probably be assigned Data Deficient.

*Attribution:

Description from: Burrows (2009).

References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2009. Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 2. The endemic *Pimelea prostrata* and *Pimelea urvilliana* species complexes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 2009, Vol. 47: 163–229

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2386



Caption: Moa Point, Wellington.
Jan 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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