



Pimelea prostrata subsp. *vulcanica*

Common Name(s):

pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: South Auckland and Taupo district hills (abundant on the summit of Mt Tarawera, slopes of the central North Island volcanoes, and on plains of the Volcanic Plateau, and south of Murupara); scattered on Huiarau, Kaimanawa, and north-west Ruahine Ranges.

Habitat:

Short grassland, shrubland with open grassy areas and sometimes on margins of fine volcanic ejecta patches (scoria, lapillii) and alluvium, colluvium derived from such debris; also on soils derived from tephra, on bared areas in grassland and open scrubland.

Features*:

A small to moderately large, much-branched shrub with prostrate habit. Main stems to 600 mm long, grey-brown, relatively thin and flexible, except near the base. Branching is mainly lateral, with long, thin, flexible branchlets; secondary branchlets on these are short. Young branchlets are only sparsely hairy. Internodes 0.5–4.0 mm long. Older stems glabrous, grey-brown. Node buttresses brown, elongate, usually the whole length of the internode, with a strip of fine, short hairs between them, not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves ascendant and imbricate; patent on laxer branchlets, on very short (0.1–0.3 mm) red petioles. Lamina narrow elliptic, 4–6 × 1.2–2 mm, glabrous, usually glaucous, medium green or sometimes yellowish-green, often red-margined, slightly keeled, acute. Mid-vein evident abaxially, sometimes reddish. Leaves on the very short lateral branchlets are relatively small. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 2–7-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, similar in size to adjacent leaves. Flowers white, moderately hairy outside; inside hairless or sparsely hairy in upper tube and ovary portion. Female tube 2.8 mm long, ovary portion 2.2 mm, calyx lobes 1.7 × 1.1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1.4 mm. Ovary with sparse hairs at summit and about one-quarter of the way down. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, white, opaque, 4 × 2.5 mm. Seeds narrow-ovoid, 3 × 1.3 mm, thin crest.

Flowering:

September - May

Fruiting:

October - July

Threats:

Burrows (2009) describes this subspecies as plentiful though he discusses threats which include heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and succession to taller vegetation. It probably warrants a precautionary listing of 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* 47: 163–229.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2387



Caption: Rangipo Desert.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe