Pimelea prostrata subsp. thermalis

Common Name(s):

pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: North Auckland and South Auckland, including Waikato, King Country, Hauraki Plains, Bay of Plenty; Rotorua (thermal region), northern part of the Volcanic Plateau; Hawke's Bay, mainly inland, sometimes near the coast.

Caption: Rangipo Desert.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Gumlands, thermal deposits, old volcanic deposits, short grassland, shrubland.

Features*:

A moderately large, much-branched shrub with prostrate habit. Main stems to 600 mm long, dark brown, stout and stiff or flexible. The primary lateral branches are usually long and flexible or sometimes straight and stiff. They usually bear abundant, short, secondary, very leafy laterals. Young branchlets are clad, sparsely, in short hair. Internodes 2–5 mm long, shorter on laterals. Older stems glabrous, dark brown to grey-brown. Node buttresses dark brown, extending the length of the internode, not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves ascendant then patent, on very short (0.1–0.2 mm), often dark red petioles, or sessile. Lamina narrow-elliptic or elliptic to oblong or ovate, 5–8 × 2–3 mm, medium to dull green, sometimes glaucous, slightly keeled, acute. Midvein evident abaxially, sometimes red. Leaves on secondary lateral branchlets relatively small. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 4–6-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, smaller than, the same size as, or larger than adjacent ordinary leaves (6.0 × 2.5 mm). Flowers white, moderately hairy outside; inside hairless. Female tube 2.2 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.0 × 0.8 mm; hermaphodite tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 1.8 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1 mm. Ovary sparsely hairy at summit. Fruits ovoid, white, opaque 5 × 3 mm. Seeds 2.7 × 1.5 mm.

Flowering:

September - May

Fruiting:

October - July

Threats:

Burrows (2009) states that this subspecies was formerly widespread in North and South Auckland but that it has declined from these areas and that it would require management to stop further losses. However, hard data to substantiate these claims was not presented, as such this subspecies would probably merit listing as Data Deficient (simply as a precautionary measure) until further information is made available.

***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:
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