



Pimelea prostrata subsp. ventosa

Common Name(s):

pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: southeastern Otago, south coast of Southland and islands in Foveaux Strait and South-western Fiordland.

Habitat:

Coastal, on rock outcrops, cliffs, sand dunes.

Features*:

A small to medium-sized, sparsely branched, prostrate shrub with main stems to 300 mm long. Branching both sympodial and lateral but the former is more common. Internodes 1–3 mm long, with a sparse to moderately dense cover of fine but stiff hair. Node buttresses dark brown, short (0.3 mm or sometimes to 0.6 mm), lunate, moderately conspicuous on leafless stems. The internodes of young stems are covered by a brown pellicle which fragments as they grow, leaving a muricate patterning. Leaves ascendant, imbricate, or more distant, on short (0.8–1.0 mm) red petioles. Lamina broad elliptic to ovate, 4.5–10 × 2.3–4 mm, light green, glaucous, slightly fleshy, adaxially concave or very slightly keeled, margins thickened, often red, upturned; midvein obscure abaxially, obtuse, base cuneate. Inflorescences terminal, 4–6-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, larger than adjacent leaves (5 × 7 mm). Receptacle very hairy. Flowers white, very hairy outside; inside hairless. Female tube 2.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4.2 mm long, ovary portion very wrinkled, 2 mm, calyx lobes 3 × 2 mm. Ovary with a tuft of short hair at summit and fewer hairs down to the base. Fruits ovoid to globose, fleshy, white, opaque, 4.9 × 3.0 mm. Seeds ovoid, 3.2 × 1.8 mm.

Flowering:

October - May

Fruiting:

November - July

Threats:

Burrows (2009) is vague about details. The implication is that this subspecies is secure in Fiordland but that it needs better survey to ascertain its status elsewhere. Based on those statements *Pimelea prostrata subsp. ventosa* would probably be listed as 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=2389