



Pimelea sporadica

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: Te Pahi (North Cape) to Cape Brett, Bay of Islands and near Maunganui Bluff. East Cape at Hicks Bay.

Habitat:

Coastal headlands and rock outcrops (ultramafic, sandstone and basalt), in low scrub or on bare ground, also on consolidated sand. Most common on ultramafic rocks at North Cape.

Features*:

A medium-sized, erect to suberect shrub, to 450 mm high. Branches stiff, divergent. Branching both sympodial and lateral but the former is most notable. Branchlets moderately densely covered by short, grey-white hair. Internodes 1.5–3.0 mm long. Older stems glabrous, grey-brown. Node buttresses short (0.2 mm) dark brown, lunate, masked by hair on young branchlets, moderately prominent on leafless branches. Leaves decussate, crowded on young branches, ascendant at first, then mainly patent and becoming deflexed, on very short (0.1–0.2 mm) red petioles, or sessile. Lamina relatively thick, stiff, ovate to oblong, 4.5–6.5 × 3.0–3.7 mm, glabrous, medium-green, glaucous, slightly keeled, or adaxially concave, margins slightly upturned, midvein not plainly evident abaxially, slightly sunken, acute, base cuneate or truncate. Stomata on adaxial surface only. Abaxial surface glistens. Inflorescences 3–6-flowered, terminal on leading branches, sometimes clustered. Involucral bracts 4, larger than adjacent leaves (7 × 5 mm). Receptacles very hairy, pedicels 0.2 mm, persistent. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, covered in short, moderately dense hair outside; inside hairless; calyx lobes opening in salverform fashion. Female tube 3 mm long, ovary portion 2.1 mm, calyx lobes 1.2 × 0.8 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 2.2 mm, calyx lobes 2.5 × 2.0 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latorse. Ovary with a sparse hair-covering at summit. Fruits broad-ovoid, fleshy white, opaque 4.5 × 3.4 mm. Seeds narrow-ovoid 2 × 1.4 mm.

Flowering:

September - April

Fruiting:

October - April

Threats:

Listed by de Lange et al. (2009: N.Z.J.Bot. 47: 61–96) as *Pimelea* aff. *tomentosa* (b) (AK 130893; Surville cliffs) and awarded the status of Tax. Indet. Naturally Uncommon. Burrows (2009) has expanded the concept of this species and suggests that it is secure at North Cape but vulnerable elsewhere, again without supporting evidence. As such this species status is probably better referred to as Data Deficient until better information becomes available.

*Attribution:

Description from: Burrows (2009)

References and further reading:

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

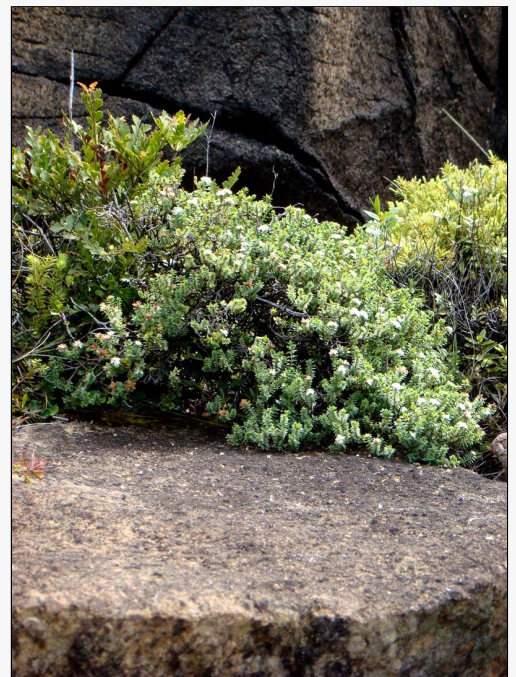
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2390



Caption: Serpentine cliff, Surville Cliffs, Northland

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Talus slope, serpentine cliff, Surville Cliffs, Northland

Photographer: Peter de Lange