



## *Pimelea eremitica*

### Common Name(s):

Roimata o Tohe, Pimelea

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: Maunganui Bluff

### Habitat:

Coastal. On the exposed summit of a large basaltic outcrop growing in short exotic grassland and low shrubs amongst basalt boulders

### Features\*:

A small to medium-sized, erect to suberect shrub, up to 400 mm tall, branching sympodially and with many erect, thin lateral branches. Young branchlets light brown, moderately densely covered with white to grey-white appressed hair. Internodes 1.0–1.5 mm. Older stems glabrate to hairless, brown to dark grey. Node buttresses usually short (0.2 mm), lunate, sometimes elongate masked by hair on young branchlets, small but moderately prominent on some leafless branchlets. Leaves decussate, ascendant, becoming patent on larger plants, on short (0.5–1 mm) red petioles, often persistent. Lamina slightly keeled, moderately stiff, 4–6 × 1.5–2 mm, elliptic, glabrous, medium-green, sometimes red-margined, midvein evident abaxially, but not prominent; acute, but blunt tipped, base cuneate. Stomata present on adaxial side only. Abaxial surface glistens. Inflorescences terminal on leading stems, 1–5-flowered, involucre bracts 4, similar in size to adjacent leaves or wider (7 × 3.5 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on very short pedicels (0.3 mm), circumscissile near base, outside of tube and calyx lobes moderately hairy, inside hairless. Female tube 3 mm long, ovary portion 2.6 mm, calyx lobes (ascendant) 2 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 3.5 × 2.5 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latrorse. Ovary with short hairs at summit and a few down to base. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, white with pink flush, opaque 4 × 2.7 mm. Seeds 3 × 1.8 mm.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

November - May

### Threats:

Previously listed by de Lange et al (2009) in Appendix 2, under the informal name *Pimelea* (f) (AK 189577; Maunganui Bluff) (OL - One Location)) as taxonomically Indeterminate / Data Deficient. Burrows (2009) states that the single population is of limited size making the future of this species precarious. Cultivation, planting-out, and cautious management to increase numbers are desirable. During September 2010 the Department of Conservation together with Te Rorowa who maintain mana whenua over Maunganui Bluff undertook a survey and found <80 plants in a single site which is threatened by goats. As such this species qualifies as Nationally Critical, a status it should obtain when the next threat listing is undertaken.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2009). Description adapted 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.

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61–96.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2393](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2393)



**Caption:** Maunganui Bluff  
**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



**Caption:** Maunganui Bluff. Seedling with top nipped off.  
**Photographer:** Peter de Lange