



Pimelea xenica

Common Name(s):

pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island: North Auckland (scattered sites from Cape Reinga and North Cape south to Anawhata), South Auckland (Coromandel Peninsula), eastern Bay of Plenty, near East Cape, and at Hawke's Bay, near Tangoio.

Habitat:

Mainly coastal or near-coastal but sometimes further inland. A species of low heathland where it grows on open clay pans or within short shrubland dominated by *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Leucopogon fasciculatus*, *Ozothamnus leptophylla*, *Baumea* spp., *Phormium cookianum*, and *Hebe* spp. Also found on grassy slopes, open eroding banks on bare soil, and on rock outcrops.

Features*:

A moderately small, erect or suberect shrub, to 30 cm high, stems gracile, fastigiate to sprawling. Branching mainly sympodial with some diffuse lateral. Branchlets moderately densely covered by short to long, greyish-white hair. Internodes 0.5–1.2 mm long. Node buttresses short (0.1–0.8 mm), brown, lunate to slightly elongate, usually visible on young branchlets but not prominent on leafless stems. Older stems glabrate, grey or grey-brown. Leaves decussate, ascendant to patent, on short (0.2–0.5 mm) red petioles. Lamina thin, pliable, with a thickened margin, elliptic to ovate, 4.0–5.5 × 1.5–2.2 mm, pale green or glaucous, keeled and adaxially concave (dry leaf margins are often curled inward), midvein not plainly evident abaxially, obtuse or acute, base cuneate. Stomata abundant on adaxial and abaxial sides. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 3–5-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, broader than adjacent leaves (4 × 3 mm), partly hiding the flowers. Receptacles sparsely hairy, pedicels 0.3 mm. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, opening in salverform fashion, sparsely covered in short hair outside, inside hairy in upper tube and sparsely so in ovary portion. Female tube 3 mm long, ovary portion wrinkled, 2.4 mm long, calyx lobes 1.5 × 1.3 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 1.8 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latrorse. Ovary with sparse hair on summit and a few short hairs below that. Fruits subglobose to oblate, fleshy, white, translucent, 5 × 4 mm. Seeds ovoid 2.1 × 1.7 mm, thin crest.

Flowering:

September – April

Fruiting:

November – June

Threats:

Burrows (2009) notes that one population near Cape Reinga was recently destroyed due to road works. However, he affirms that this species is poorly known. As a precautionary measure it probably merits future listing as Data Deficient.

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Peter de Lange with 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.

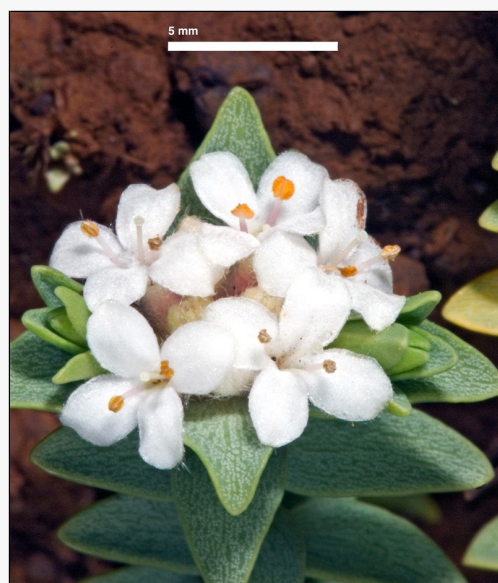
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2395



Caption: Node buttresses and hairs on stem. Surville Cliffs, North Cape.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Inflorescence. Surville Cliffs, North Cape.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe