



Pimelea suteri

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Red Hills, Mt Dun, ultramafites of Richmond Range, West Dome).

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. On ultramafic rocks in open, stony ground, or in shrubby or well-vegetated tussock grassland.

Features*:

Small, much-branched shrub. In open, exposed sites relatively compact and often appressed or decumbent, to 800 mm tall, with short, stiff stems. In shaded sites stems slender, procumbent, flexible, to 300 mm long. Branching sympodial and lateral, young stems medium brown, moderately densely covered in short, appressed hairs; internodes 1–2 mm (exposed sites), 3–5 mm (sheltered sites). Older stems dark brown to black, glabrate to glabrous. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, brown, hairy, not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending, becoming patent, on very short (0.2 mm) petioles or sessile. Lamina olive green, linear-lanceolate, sometimes slightly falcate, 5.0–8.0 × 0.8–2.0 mm, slightly keeled, may be inrolled when dry; tip acute, but blunt; base cuneate, mid-vein evident; abaxial surface covered with sparse, short hairs, along mid-vein and margins of young leaves, often with a small tuft at the tip; older leaves glabrous; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, loose, 4–10-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, wider than ordinary leaves (5.0 × 2.8 mm). Receptacles have dense, short hairs. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short (0.1 mm) pedicels, calyx lobes ascending, outside covered in very dense short hairs; inside hairless. Female tube 4.2 mm long, ovary portion 2.8 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.2 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with small cluster of long hairs at summit. Fruits ovoid, red, fleshy, 4 × 2 mm. Seeds 2.3 × 1.2 mm. Crest very thin.

Flowering:

September - February

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Pimelea suteri is a narrow-range, biologically sparse, obligate endemic of ultramafic substrates and their associated soils. Although it is common in the northern part of its range it is rather scarce in the southern part of its range. No threats have been identified for this species other than the spread of wildling pines on the Red Hills in the upper Wairau.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (28 April 2011). Description adapted from Burrows (2011).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer.

Burrows, C.J. 2011: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 4. The taxonomic treatment of ten endemic abaxially hairy-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 41–106.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=620