



Pimelea oreophila subsp. *hetera*

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Nelson, Marlborough, northern Canterbury to Hanmer and the upper Hurunui River)

Habitat:

Montane to alpine (usually above the treeline) in tall tussock grasslands sometimes on rock and debris slides at lower altitudes.

Features*:

Procumbent, trailing shrub, with few to many, moderately thick (2.5–3.5 mm), light brown, flexible young stems, these moderately densely covered in short, appressed hairs, internodes 1–4 mm, node buttresses lunate, not prominent on leafless stems. Older stems brown, thick (to 5 mm), up to 500 mm long, occasionally with adventitious roots, sometimes climbing in upright shrubs. Reduced in stature on exposed sites with rocky substrates, sometimes forming short-stemmed, appressed rosettes. Branching mainly sympodial. Young stems brown, moderately densely covered in short or moderately long, white, grey or sometimes yellowish appressed hair cover; older stems darker brown, glabrate. Internodes of young stems 1–5 mm long. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, or sometimes extending the full length of internodes, with bands of hair between; usually not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, on short (0.5–1.0 mm), often red petioles, ascending at first, usually becoming patent, often with a distichous appearance on prostrate stems. Lamina 4–8 × 2–4 mm, elliptic to ovate, medium green, flat to slightly keeled, sometimes red-margined, mid-vein evident; tip acute but usually blunt-pointed, sometimes obtuse; base cuneate; abaxial hairs dull white, short, varying from very sparse to a continuous but only moderately dense cover, sometimes tufted at the tip, often becoming glabrous as leaves age; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 5–15-flowered, receptacle densely covered in short hairs. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as ordinary leaves, or larger (6 × 4 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, fragrant, on short pedicels (0.3 mm) densely covered with short hairs outside; inside hairless. Female tube 2.5–4.0 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 1–2 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4–6 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.0–3.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with dense clump of short or long hairs at summit. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, red, 4 × 3 mm. Seeds ovoid 2.7 × 2.3 mm.

Flowering:

September - February

Fruiting:

unknown

Threats:

Probably not threatened. However as *Pimelea oreophila* subsp. *lepta* was not assessed by Burrows (2011) using the New Zealand Threat Classification Manual (Townsend et al. 2008) it has no valid threat assessment. So at this stage it seems best to recommend an interim threat assessment of "Data Deficient".

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

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.

Townsend, A.J.; de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Molloy, J.; Miskelly, C.; Duffy, C. 2008: The New Zealand Threat Classification System manual. Wellington, Department of Conservation.

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