



Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (intermontane basins and adjacent river flats of the upper Wairau, Clarence and Awatere to the Waiau-uha, Hurunui and Waimakariri)

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. A common species of intermontane basins and their associated river flats and alluvial terraces. *Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa* is mostly found within short tussock grassland where it commonly grows amongst *Poa colensoi*, *Festuca novae-zelandiae*, *Raoulia* spp. It also occasionally grows in open shrubland.

Features*:

A small much-branched, suberect, or decumbent, sometimes appressed, shortly branched compact shrub forming ± circular patches up to 200 mm diameter. Branching mainly sympodial, branches radiating from a stout main stem. Branches of young stems dark brown, moderately to densely covered with long grey-white or yellowish hairs, internodes 0.5–2.5 mm long. Older stems stout (to 10 mm), black, glabrate to glabrous. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, brown, prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending tightly imbricate, becoming patent, on short (0.3–0.5 mm) reddish petioles. Lamina 4.5–7.0 × 1.8–2.5 mm, dull glaucous-green, elliptic, broad-elliptic or oblong, sometimes ovate, slightly adaxially concave, mid-vein obscure; tip obtuse; base cuneate; abaxial surface moderately densely covered with long, straight or curled hairs; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 4–12-flowered; involucre bracts 4, wider than ordinary leaves (6–8 × 3–4 mm). Receptacles densely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, scented, on short (0.2 mm) pedicels, very hairy outside, inside hairless. Female tube 3–4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 5–6 mm long, ovary portion 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 3 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with sparse short hairs on apex. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, yellow to orange 4.0–5.0 × 2.0–3.2 mm. Seeds 2.5 × 1.3 mm.

Flowering:

September - February

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Probably not threatened. However, some populations are small and are possibly threatened by competition from hawkweeds (*Pilosella* spp.). However as *Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa* 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 (30 April 2011) 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.

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.

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http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6674