



## *Pimelea mesoa subsp. macra*

**Common Name(s):**

Pimelea

**Current Threat Status (2012):**

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

**Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-West Nelson (Kahurangi National Park - confined to the upper Cobb Valley))

**Habitat:**

Montane. Confined to the valley bottom within a small area at the head of Cobb Valley which is a large glaciated valley system. Here it grows amongst tall and short tussocks and low scrub.

**Features\*:**

A small sparingly (rarely much) branched, decumbent, widely-spreading, ± appressed, compact shrub forming irregular patches up to 300 mm diameter. Branching mainly sympodial, branches up to 300 mm long, radiating from a stout main stem, usually procumbent, sometimes climbing through other plants. Branches of young stems light brown, moderately covered with long grey-white or yellowish hairs, internodes 2.0–5.0 mm long. Older stems stout (to 4 mm), dark brown, glabrate to glabrous. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, brown, usually not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending, loosely 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:**

*Pimelea mesoa subsp. macra* as *Pimelea aff. sericeovillosa* (CHR 467766; Cobb) was listed as "Threatened/Nationally Critical" by de Lange et al. (2009) and qualified as "RR" (Range Restricted), "St" (stable). This threat status still applies because the subspecies is still only known from a single small area (area < 1 ha). However, within its only known location the population is reasonably large and apparently stable. There are no known threats affecting *P. mesoa subsp. macra* and all known plants occur within a National Park. Burrows (2011) offers no data contradicting this earlier assessment.

**\*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.

**For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=6675](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6675)



**Caption:** Cobb Valley  
**Photographer:** Simon Walls



**Caption:** Habitat for species in Kahurangi National Park  
**Photographer:** Simon Walls