



Pimelea declivis

Current Threat Status (2018):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (southeastern Marlborough, north and south Canterbury)

Habitat:

Lowland to lower montane, Mostly found in sparse grassland and grey scrub associated with limestone ridges, scarps, cliffs, outcrops, scree and boulder heaps. *Pimelea declivis* is also known sparingly from igneous rock.

Features*:

Erect, suberect or decumbent, much-branched shrub up to 500 mm tall and 600 mm wide. Branching mainly sympodial. Young branchlets light brown, moderately densely covered in short, appressed hairs; internodes 2-3 mm long, older stems brown to grey, some up to 300 mm diameter. Node buttresses lunate, not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending, becoming patent, on short (0.3-0.5 mm) often red petioles. Lamina 5.0-14 × 2.0-3.5 mm, medium glaucous-green, ovate or elliptic, flat or slightly keeled; tip acute, but blunt-pointed; base cuneate; abaxial surface with sparse hairs, mainly along margins and mid-vein, near tip; older leaves glabrous; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 4-14-flowered; involucre bracts 4, usually broader than ordinary leaves (12 × 5 mm), not hiding the flowers. Receptacle covered with abundant short hair. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, scented, on short (0.8 mm) pedicels, densely hairy outside, inside sparsely hairy in tube and ovary portion. Female tube 3.5 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.6 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 3 × 2 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary wall thin, summit very hairy. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, red 5 × 3 mm. Seeds narrow-ovoid 2.8 × 1.5 mm, thin crest.

Flowering:

October - May

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Burrows (2011) outlines a range of threats which include the past quarrying of limestone, competition from weeds (especially invasive shrubs such as broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), farming, pine plantations (and the spread of wilding pines from these), and introgression with other *Pimelea*. Unfortunately none of these threats are quantified, and the species was not assessed using the New Zealand Threat Classification Manual (Townsend et al. 2008) and so has no valid threat assessment. At this stage then it seems that based on the evidence presented by Burrows (2011) an interim threat assessment of "Data Deficient" is probably appropriate.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 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.

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=6678