



Pimelea nitens subsp. nitens

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (western Nelson, central and eastern Marlborough, north Canterbury (head of the Clarence River)

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. A component of tall tussock grassland and also on rock outcrops and cliffs, especially marble, limestone and sandstone (occasionally on ultramafics).

Features*:

Robust, much-branched, procumbent, decumbent or sometimes semi-upright shrubs up to 250 mm tall; stems usually stiff, up to 400 mm long. Branching mainly sympodial. Young stems brown, densely covered in short, white to greyish or yellowish, fine to coarse, appressed to ascending hairs. Internodes 1-2 mm, densely hairy. Older stems thick (to 12 mm), glabrate, dark grey-brown. Node buttresses lunate, 0.2 mm long, smooth, brown, usually not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending, loosely imbricate, on short (0.5 mm), red petioles. Lamina 5-8 × 2-3 mm, medium to dark green, ovate to broadly ovate, slightly keeled; tip sharply acute; base cuneate; abaxial surface densely to moderately densely covered by short, straight, appressed, glistening white, straight hairs; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 3-7-flowered. Involucral bracts wider than adjacent leaves (5.0-6.0 × 3.5-3.9 mm). Receptacles with dense short hairs. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short (0.3 mm) pedicels, densely covered outside with short hairs; inside hairless. Female tube to 3.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 1.0 mm; hermaphrodite tube to 6 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with a cluster of long hairs at summit and sparse, short hairs to base. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, red, 5.0 × 3.5 mm. Seeds 2.5 × 1.8 mm.

Flowering:

December - February

Fruiting:

February - April

Threats:

Burrows (2011) offers little information noting that *Pimelea nitens subsp. nitens* is not well known but that it (p. 87) "seems to be relatively common in western Nelson, but that a thorough survey of its situation is needed. No attempt to provide a threat status using the New Zealand Threat Classification System (see Townsend et al. 2008) was made but it seems clear from the little information provided that an interim threat assessment of "Data Deficient" is probably appropriate.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (1 May 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.

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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6680