



Pimelea nitens subsp. aspera

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (D'Urville Island, eastern Nelson including the Richmond Range)

Habitat:

Lowland to alpine. *Pimelea nitens subsp. aspera* is almost exclusively tied to ultramafic substrates and the soils derived from these (*Pimelea nitens subsp. aspera* is also occasionally found on sandstone). In these places it grows amongst low sparse and in open ground within tall tussock grassland.

Features*:

Robust, much-branched, procumbent, decumbent or sometimes semi-upright shrub 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 to black. Node buttresses lunate, 0.2 mm long, smooth, brown, sometimes 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, variable, mostly elliptic to broad-elliptic (rarely ovate to broad-ovate), slightly keeled; tip sharply acute to blunt; base cuneate; abaxial surface densely to moderately densely covered by long, ascending, dull-white, sometimes yellowish, straight (sometimes curled 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:

Unknown

Threats:

Burrows (2011) offers no meaningful information about this species threat status merely noting (p. 89) that recent surveys had found that *Pimelea nitens subsp. aspera* was "never abundant". Based on its known distribution, main substrate preferences and apparent ecology *P. nitens subsp. aspera* is quite probably a naturally uncommon, biological sparse plant. However, until exact numbers of plants become known a full assessment is clearly impossible. In any case as no attempt was made by Burrows (2011) to provide a threat status using the New Zealand Threat Classification System (see Townsend et al. 2008) at this stage 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=6681