



Pimelea hirta

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Raukumara, Maungaharuru, Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges)

Habitat:

Alpine. Usually on limestone outcrops but a component of tall tussock grassland and subalpine scrub

Features*:

A robust, much-branched procumbent to decumbent shrub with stems up to 400 mm long. Branching sympodial and lateral. Young stems brown, with a moderately dense cover of long, dull-white hairs; internodes 1-3 mm long. Older stems glabrous, dark brown to black. Node buttresses lunate, 0.2 mm long, smooth, brown, masked by hairs on young stems, not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending and loosely imbricate to patent, on short, dark red petioles (0.3 mm). Lamina 6.0-9.0 × 2.5-5.0 mm, medium green, elliptic to broad-elliptic, or broad-ovate or oblong slightly adaxially concave to keeled, mid-vein evident, sunken adaxially; tip acute; base cuneate; abaxial surface moderately sparsely covered by dull white, relatively long, straight (rarely curled) hairs; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, loose, 4-7-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, similar in size to ordinary leaves or larger (6-3 mm). Receptacle moderately densely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white on short (0.8 mm) pedicels, very hairy outside, inside hairless. Female tube 5 mm long, ovary portion wrinkled, 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.9 × 1.1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.8 × 2.0 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with a few short hairs at summit. Fruits red, ovoid, fleshy 4.0 × 2.7 mm. Seeds ovoid, 3.5 × 2.0 mm, crest thin.

Flowering:

December - February

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Pimelea hirta is newly described that has not been recognised by an informal tag name previously. Therefore this species has not been formally listed by the New Zealand Threat Listing Panel (see de Lange et al. 2009). However Burrows (2011) did not use the New Zealand Threat Listing Classification System (see Townsend et al. 2008) in his conservation assessment, and his comments, unquantified as they are suggest that the best course of action is to list this species as "Data Deficient" until such time as better data is obtained, and the species can be assessed by an appropriate threat listing panel.

*Attribution:

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

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=6682