



## *Pimelea aridula* subsp. *oliga*

### Common Name(s):

Pimelea

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Vulnerable

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island: Eastern Marlborough, relatively close to the coast in the Flaxbourne River and Wharekiri Stream catchments. Further inland in the Awatere Valley, Chalk Range and middle Clarence Valley (West of the Seaward Kaikoura Range)

### Habitat:

Lowland to montane. On limestone outcrops and screes (occasionally on sandstone)

### Features\*:

A medium-sized, slender upright shrub, up to 0.7 m. Long-stemmed plants may be fastigiata; short-stemmed plants often have more divergent branches. Branching mainly sympodial. Main stems flexible. Young branchlets brown, moderately to densely covered with long hair; internodes 0.5-2.0 mm; old stems at the base may be stout (= 10 mm diameter), grey-brown, glabrous. Node buttresses lunate, brown, hairy, often masked by hairs on young stems, moderately conspicuous on leafless stems. Leaves usually decussate, on short, red petioles (0.5 mm), rarely alternate on some young branchlets, ascending, loosely imbricate. Lamina 6-15 × 2-3 mm, medium green, slightly adaxially concave, narrow-ovate, acute, base cuneate, both surfaces sparsely to moderately densely covered by appressed white sericeous to villous hairs, comose at tip. Stomata on both leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 5-10-flowered, sometimes in small clusters. Involucral bracts similar in size to adjacent leaves or slightly wider (8.0-10 × 3.2 mm), partly hiding the flowers. Receptacle densely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short pedicels (0.5 mm), densely hairy outside, internally glabrous. Female tube 3.0 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.3 × 0.7 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6.0 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.3 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary hairy from summit to two thirds of the way down. Fruits ovoid, dry, brown, 4.0 × 2.3 mm. Seeds ovoid 3.0-4.0 × 1.9-2.1 mm.

### Flowering:

October - January

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

*Pimelea aridula* subsp. *oliga* is listed in Appendix 2 of de Lange et al. (2011; p.90) as *Pimelea* aff. *aridula* (CHR 277514; South Marlborough). Burrows (2011) offers no data to support or refute that status, though he does indicate this subspecies is highly threatened, citing farming as a major threat through causing a loss of habitat. Burrows (2011) also provides data to suggest that introgression with other *Pimelea* may be a threat. This needs to be properly studied. At this stage because *Pimelea aridula* subsp. *oliga* has a valid threat status, until a further listing is undertaken there seems no reason to change this.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 September 2011): Description based on Burrows (2011)

### References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2011: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 5. The taxonomic treatment of five endemic species with both adaxial and abaxial leaf hair. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 367-412.

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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