



Pimelea mimosa

Common Name(s):

Pimelea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, Hawkes Bay (Te Mata peak)

Habitat:

On exposed limestone ridge and cliffs and scree slopes below them.

Features*:

Procumbent to decumbent medium- sized shrubs to 250 mm high, with stems to 500 mm long. Branching mainly sympodial. Young branchlets brown, densely covered by moderately long, white hairs. Internodes 2-6 mm long; older stems glabrate, brown to grey-brown. Node buttresses short (0.2 mm), lunate, masked by hairs on young branchlets, not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, on short petioles (0.5-1.0 mm), ascending at first, soon becoming patent or deflexed, persistent. They may appear to be distichous on appressed branches. Lamina to 9.0-20.0 × 2.5-5.0 mm, varying in width from plant to plant, medium green, adaxially concave or slightly keeled, elliptic to narrow-elliptic, acute, base cuneate; both surfaces of young leaves uniformly densely covered by short, glistening, white, appressed hairs. Mid-vein usually not evident. Older leaves become glabrate and appear dull-green. Stomata on both surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 2-7-flowered, compact. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as, or slightly wider than, adjacent leaves (9-12 × 4-6 mm) partly hiding the flowers. Receptacle densely covered in short hairs. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short (0.5 mm) pedicels, densely hairy outside, inside hairless. Female tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.2 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.5 × 2.0 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary sparsely hairy at summit. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, red, 5.0-6.0 × 3.5-4.0 mm. Seeds narrow-ovoid, 3.2 × 2.0 mm, crest thin.

Flowering:

December - June

Fruiting:

January - July

Threats:

Listed by de Lange et al.(2009) in Appendix 2 as Taxonomically Indeterminate/Nationally Critical *Pimelea* aff. *aridula* (a) (CHR 282959; Te Mata Peak) qualified OL (one Location) and RF (Recruitment Failure). *Pimelea mimosa* Burrows (2011) stated that this species is now extinct in the wild and survives only in cultivation. However, recently (2011) *Pimelea mimosa* was confirmed as still present on Te Mata Peak by NZPCN member Philip Smith. Although this is good news there is good data to show that the Te Mata peak population of this species has been in serious decline for many years, due to fires, weed invasion and over-collecting (ironically) by botanists.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (4 October 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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6713



Caption: In cultivation ex Te Mata Peak. Aug 2009.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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