

# Pimelea carnosa

## COMMON NAME

pinātoro, pimelea

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2009)

## FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pimelea carnosa* C.J.Burrows

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very low-growing sprawling shrub with creeping greyish-haired twigs bearing overlapping pairs of thick fleshy oval leaves, clusters of small white flowers, and white fruit inhabiting coastal areas probably throughout. Leaves slightly ridged underneath, 3.5-4.9mm long by 1.5-3.5mm wide.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings (Manawha Tawhi), North and South Islands to about Otago. All recent South Island records come from Nelson, North-west Nelson to about Buller and in the east along the Marlborough coast to Ward and at Kaitorete Spit.

## HABITAT

Coastal: Mostly on cliffs and banks, sometimes on dunes; commonly in short turf on wind- and spray-swept cliff tops together with a range of halophytic plants.



Pihama Coast, South Taranaki. Photographer: Bill Clarkson, Date taken: 05/10/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pihama Coast, South Taranaki. Photographer: Bill Clarkson, Date taken: 05/10/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small to medium-sized shrub, prostrate or pendent on banks and cliffs; stems slender to stout, flexible, up to 70 cm long. Branching sympodial and lateral, with some short shoots. Branchlets light brown, moderately densely covered by short, stiff, greyish-white hair. Internodes 1–2 mm long. Older stems slightly hairy to glabrate, light-brown to dark grey. Node buttresses short (0.2 mm), dark brown, lunate, masked by hair on young stems, not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, crowded on young branchlets, imbricate, ascendant, may become patent later, on short (0.5 mm) red petioles. Lamina broad-ovate or broad-elliptic, 3.5–4.9 × 1.5–3.5 mm, glabrous, glaucous, thick, often fleshy, adaxially concave to slightly keeled, midvein evident abaxially, obtuse, base cuneate, sometimes truncate. Stomata abundant on adaxial side, none or rare on abaxial side. Inflorescences 4–6-flowered, terminal on branchlets. Involucral bracts 4, similar in size to adjacent leaves or larger (5.5 × 3.8 mm). Receptacles moderately hairy. Pedicels 0.2 mm. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, fragrant, moderately densely hairy on outside of tube and calyx lobes; inside hairless. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube 3 mm, ovary portion 2.2 mm, calyx lobes 1.8 × 1.4 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4.2 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 2.0 × 1.8 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latrose. Ovary sparsely hairy at summit and to one-quarter of the way down. Fruits broad ovoid, fleshy, white, opaque, 5.0 × 3.8 mm. Seeds broad ovoid 2.8 × 2 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*P. carnososa* is easily recognised by the extremely fleshy, broad-elliptic to broad-ovate, keeled, imbricate (overlapping), ascendant leaves, lunate node buttresses, and very hairy young stems. It is perhaps closest to, and has often been confused with *P. urvilliana* which differs by the bright white, long, dense indumentum of the stem internodes (rather than the grey-white, short, moderately dense hairs of the stem internodes of *P. carnososa*) and by having notably less fleshy, more widely spaced, elliptic or ovate leaves.

## FLOWERING

September – April

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

November – June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and rooted pieces. Seed is difficult to germinate. Best grown in a well drained soil in full sun. An excellent plant for the rockery.

## ETYMOLOGY

**pimelea:** Pimeleoides means “resembling Pimelea”, a genus in the family Thymelaeaceae (Greek, -oides = resembling, like).

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2009). Description adapted from Burrows (2009).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Burrows, C.J. 2009: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 2. The endemic *Pimelea prostrata* and *Pimelea urvilliana* species complexes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 163–229.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pimelea carnososa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-carnososa/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-carnososa/>