

Pimelea mesoa subsp. macra

COMMON NAME

pimelea

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2011)

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimela mesoa subsp. macra C.J.Burrows

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: OL, St

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: OL, St

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very low growing shrub with hairy twigs to 30cm long bearing pairs of blueish-green pointed leaves that are hairy underneath and with hairy white flowers and orange fruit inhabiting the Cobb Valley. Leaves 4.5-7mm long by 1.8-2.5mm wide.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-West Nelson (Kahurangi National Park - confined to the upper Cobb Valley))

HABITAT

Montane. Confined to the valley bottom within a small area at the head of Cobb Valley which is a large glaciated valley system. Here it grows amongst tall and short tussocks and low scrub.



Cobb Valley. Photographer: Simon Walls, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Habitat for species in Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Simon Walls, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small sparingly (rarely much) branched, decumbent, widely-spreading, \pm appressed, compact shrub forming irregular patches up to 300 mm diameter. Branching mainly sympodial, branches up to 300 mm long, radiating from a stout main stem, usually procumbent, sometimes climbing through other plants. Branches of young stems light brown, moderately covered with long grey-white or yellowish hairs, internodes 2.0–5.0 mm long. Older stems stout (to 4 mm), dark brown, glabrate to glabrous. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, brown, usually not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending, loosely imbricate, becoming patent, on short (0.3–0.5 mm) reddish petioles. Lamina 4.5–7.0 \times 1.8–2.5 mm, dull glaucous-green, elliptic, broad-elliptic or oblong, sometimes ovate, slightly adaxially concave, mid-vein obscure; tip obtuse; base cuneate; abaxial surface moderately densely covered with long, straight or curled hairs; stomata on both adaxial and abaxial leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, 4–12-flowered; involucre bracts 4, wider than ordinary leaves (6–8 \times 3–4 mm). Receptacles densely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, scented, on short (0.2 mm) pedicels, very hairy outside, inside hairless. Female tube 3–4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2 \times 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 5–6 mm long, ovary portion 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 3 \times 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with sparse short hairs on apex. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, yellow to orange 4.0–5.0 \times 2.0–3.2 mm. Seeds 2.5 \times 1.3 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pimelea mesoa subsp. *macra* has been confused in the past with *Pimelea sericeovillosa* from which it differs by its larger size, elongate, prostrate stems, larger, adaxially glabrous leaves and larger, more numerous flowers. From *Pimelea mesoa* subsp. *mesoa* it differs from by its slender root stock, sprawling procumbent growth habit (though stems may climb through surrounding vegetation), much longer non-radiating stems, longer internodes (2.0–5.0 mm cf. 0.5–2.5 mm in subsp. *mesoa*) and less tightly imbricating and lax leaf arrangement.

FLOWERING

September – February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Unknown

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably easily grown from semi-hard and hardwood cuttings.

THREATS

Pimela mesoa subsp. *macra* as *Pimelea* aff. *sericeovillosa* (CHR 467766; Cobb) was listed as “Threatened/Nationally Critical” by de Lange et al. (2009) and qualified as “RR” (Range Restricted), “St” (stable). This threat status still applies because the subspecies is still only known from a single small area (area < 1 ha). However, within its only known location the population is reasonably large and apparently stable. There are no known threats affecting *P. mesoa* subsp. *macra* and all known plants occur within a National Park. Burrows (2011) offers no data contradicting this earlier assessment.

ETYMOLOGY

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

Where to Buy

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (30 April 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.
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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-mesoa-subsp-macra/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-mesoa-subsp-macra/>