

Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa

COMMON NAME

pimelea

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2011)

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa C.J.Burrows

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PIMMSM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low shrub to 10cm tall bearing pairs of blueish-green pointed leaves that are hairy underneath and with hairy white flowers and orange fruit inhabiting valleys in the vicinity of Marlborough and north Canterbury. Leaves 4.5-7mm long by 1.8-2.5mm wide.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (intermontane basins and adjacent river flats of the upper Wairau, Clarence and Awatere to the Waiau-uha, Hurunui and Waimakariri

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. A common species of intermontane basins and their associated river flats and alluvial terraces. Pimelea mesoa subsp. mesoa is mostly found within short tussock grassland where it commonly grows amongst Poa colensoi, Festuca novae-zelandiae, Raoulia spp. It also occasionally grows in open shrubland.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small much-branched, suberect, or decumbent, sometimes appressed, shortly branched compact shrub forming ± circular patches up to 200 mm diameter. Branching mainly sympodial, branches radiating from a stout main stem. Branches of young stems dark brown, moderately to densely covered with long grey-white or yellowish hairs, internodes 0.5–2.5 mm long. Older stems stout (to 10 mm), black, glabrate to glabrous. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, brown, prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, ascending tightly imbricate, becoming patent, on short (0.3–0.5 mm) reddish petioles. Lamina 4.5–7.0 × 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 × 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 × 1 mm; hermaphrodite tube 5–6 mm long, ovary portion 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 3 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with sparse short hairs on apex. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, yellow to orange 4.0–5.0 × 2.0–3.2 mm. Seeds 2.5 × 1.3 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pimelea mesoa has been confused in the past with *Pimelea sericeovillosa* from which it differs by its larger size, upright or elongate, prostrate stems, larger, adaxially glabrous leaves and larger, more numerous flowers. From *P. oreophila* with which it often grows, it can be distinguished by the abaxially densely hairy leaf surface and by the obtuse leaf tips. *Pimelea mesoa* subsp. *macra* differs from subsp. *mesoa* by its more slender root stock, procumbent laxer growth habit, longer non-radiating stems, longer internodes (2.0–5.0 mm cf. 0.5–2.5 mm in subsp. *mesoa*) 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

Probably not threatened. However, some populations are small and are possibly threatened by competition from hawkweeds (*Pilosella* spp.). However as *Pimelea mesoa* subsp. *mesoa* was not assessed by Burrows (2011) using the New Zealand Threat Classification Manual (Townsend et al. 2008) it has no valid threat assessment. So at this stage it seems best to recommend an interim threat assessment of “Data Deficient”.

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-mesoa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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