

Pimelea notia

COMMON NAME

pimelea

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2011)

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea notia C.J.Burrows et Thorsen

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very low growing sprawling shrub with hairy twigs bearing pairs of fleshy blue-green hairy-tipped fleshy leaves, hairy white flowers and orange fruit inhabiting Otago ranges. Leaves 3-5mm long by 2-2.5mm wide, often with a red edge, hairs at leaf tip sparse (lens needed).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Central and South Otago, Southland)

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine. Associated with open tall and short tussock grassland and herbfield. Also found along bog margins and in alpine areas within late snow-bed areas. In lowland sites it is associated with limestone outcrops.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small usually appressed shrub with mainly sympodial branching; short branches radiate from stout main stems. Young stems narrow, brown and sparsely hairy. Internodes 0.2-0.3 mm long. Old stems glabrous, grey to black. Node buttresses lunate to elongate, not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, clustered at ends of young branchlets, ascending, imbricate, becoming patent, sessile or with very short, red petioles (0.1 mm). Lamina 3.0-5.0 × 2.0-2.5 mm, medium green, sometimes with red margins, broad-elliptic to ovate, adaxially concave to slightly keeled, mid-vein evident; tip obtuse or acute with blunt tip; base cuneate; abaxial surface covered with sparse hairs near distal end (becoming glabrous when older); stomata on both adaxial and abaxial leaf surfaces. Inflorescence terminal, 1-5-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, larger than adjacent leaves (5-3 mm). Receptacle sparsely hairy. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, on very short (0.1 mm) pedicels, sparsely covered with short hairs outside; inside hairless. Female tube 3 mm, ovary portion 2.4 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 0.8mm; hermaphrodite tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.1 × 1.4 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary summit densely covered with short hairs. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, orange, 5.0 × 3.5 mm. Seeds ovoid, 3.0 × 1.8 mm.



St Bathans Range. Photographer: John Barkla,
Date taken: 28/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Pimelea oreophila* subsp. *lepta* by its shorter stems, smaller flowers and mainly obtuse-tipped leaves with only sparse abaxial hairs. From *P. prostrata* subsp. *prostrata* it differs by having leaf hairs and orange fruits

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

THREATS

Burrows (2011) notes that the species is poorly known, in part because he suggests it has been much confused with *Pimelea prostrata* subsp. *prostrata* (which it is now known is very uncommon within the main range of *Pimelea notia* - Central Otago). Because of this confusion it is also suggested that, *Pimelea notia* is probably a fairly widespread and locally abundant species. Despite these comments the species was not assessed using the New Zealand Threat Classification Manual (Townsend et al. 2008) and so has no valid threat assessment. At this stage then it seems that based on the evidence presented by Burrows (2011) an interim threat assessment of "Data Deficient" is probably appropriate.

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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MORE INFORMATION

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