

Pimelea barbata subsp. omoia

COMMON NAMES

pimelea

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

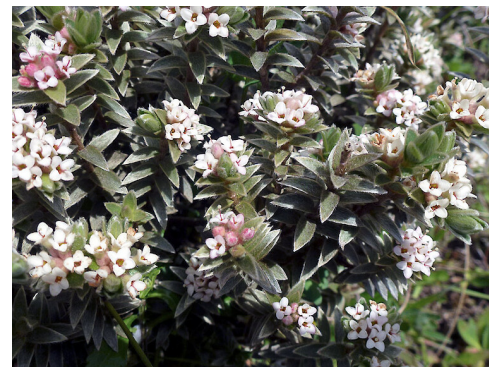
Low growing greyish shrub bearing pairs of hairy oval leaves and clusters of white flowers inhabiting sandstone gorges of the Moawhango area of central North Island. Twigs hairy. Leaves dense, variable in size between plants, 8-12mm long by 3-5mm wide. Flowers white, body hairy. Fruit red.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to medium-sized prostrate to procumbent shrubs (plants sometimes forming large patches, to 1 m or more wide). Branching mainly sympodial. Young branchlets brown, densely covered by relatively long white to dull-white hairs; internodes 1.5-6.0 mm long; older stems glabrate, grey-brown to brown. Node buttresses lunate (0.4 mm long) masked by hairs on young branchlets, not very prominent on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, on very short petioles (0.4 mm), ascending, often becoming patent to deflexed. Lamina 8-12 × 3-5 mm, broad-elliptic to ovate, often rather variable in size and differing from plant to plant, slightly adaxially concave, acute, base cuneate. Adaxial leaf hairs dense. Vesture short, white, hispid, villous, or rarely curled, usually appressed. Older leaves may be glabrate, dull-green. Mid-vein may be evident abaxially. Stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, compact, 2-7-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, the same size as or larger than adjacent leaves (7-10 × 4-6 mm). Receptacle with dense, long hairs. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white on very short pedicels (0.6 mm). Outside densely hairy, inside hairless. Female tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.8 × 1.2 mm; hermaphrodite tube 6.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 2.3 × 1.9 mm. Anther dehiscence introrse. Ovary with short sparse hairs on summit. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, red 5.0-6.0 × 3.5-4.0 mm; seeds ovoid 3.2 × 2.0 mm, crest thin.



Moawhango River. Nov 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Moawhango River. Nov 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pimelea barbata is allied to *P. mimosa* from which it differs by its smaller leaf length and wide leaves (7-12 × 3-6 mm in *P. barbata* cf. 9.0-2.0 × 2.5-5.0 mm in *P. mimosa*). *Pimelea barbata* subsp. *barbata* is closely allied to *Pimelea barbata* subsp. *omoia* from which it is geographically isolated (being confined to the Hawke's Bay mountains (with one lowland record from near Gisborne)) and ecologically distinct (being restricted to calcareous (limestone) substrates. Morphologically it differs by its leaf size (7-10 mm long cf. 8-12 mm long). Further study of *Pimelea barbata* and *P. mimosa* using DNA sequence data would be useful, as these distinctions seem relatively minor and there is much overlap in the key characters (leaf length and width) used by Burrows (2011) to define them.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Moawhango River Gorge on the western side of the southern Kaimanawa Range)

HABITAT

Montane. Sandstone cliffs and slopes below them, within open shrubland and short grassland

THREATS

Pimelea barbata subsp. *omoia* was formerly listed as "Taxonomically Indeterminate/Naturally Uncommon in Appendix 2 of de Lange et al. (2009) as *Pimelea* aff. *aridula* (c) (CHR 402249; Moawhango) qualified OL (One Location) and St (Stable). Beyond its formal taxonomic recognition, Burrows (2011) offers no concrete data or reasons to suggest a change in this status.

GENUS

Pimelea

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea barbata subsp. *omoia* C.J.Burrows

SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2011

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - January

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily propagated from semi-hardwood cuttings and layered pieces. An excellent rockery plant which flourishes in a sunny, well drained rich soil. Intolerant of competition, water logging and humidity.

ETYMOLOGY

pimelea: from Greek *pimelē*, meaning "lard" or "soft fat," presumably referring to the oily seeds or fleshy cotyledons.

barbata: From the Latin 'barbus', meaning bearded or provided with tufts of long weak hairs

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (9 October 2011). Description based on Burrows (2011).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026