

# Pimelea longifolia

## COMMON NAME

long-leaved pimelea

## SYNONYMS

*Passerina longifolia* Sol. ex Thunb.

## FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pimelea longifolia* Sol. ex Wikstr.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

PIMLON

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: PD

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: PD

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 2m tall with reddish twigs bearing pairs of bright green pointed leaves and hairy white flowers inhabiting lowland areas from Auckland to Greymouth. Leaves 40-110mm long by 10-22mm wide. Flowers to 10mm long. Fruit dry, enclosing black seed.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Great Barrier, North (Coromandel Peninsula, Auckland, Kaimai Range, East Cape, Te Urewera and Tararua Ranges) and South Islands (Durville Island, Marlborough Sounds, north-west Nelson, Buller and Paparoa Ranges)

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in open sites in forest, on forest margins and in scrub; on or near rock outcrops (especially base-rich rock such as limestone and basalt – but also on acidic rocks such as rhyolite).



Upper Kauaerenga River. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation ex Waitakere. Jul 2007. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A much-branched, erect shrub up to 2 m tall. Branches and branchlets ascending, glabrous except at leaf axils and on receptacles. Node buttresses occupy whole internode, smooth, brown, sometimes prominent after leaf fall on small specimens; internodes 8–14 mm long. Bark ages to grey. Leaves decussate, in distant opposite pairs, ascending to patent or deflexed, on petioles 3–5 mm long. Lamina medium green, yellow-green to dark green, stiff, somewhat leathery, very variable in size and shape on the same plant; largest 40–110 × 10–22 mm, elliptic or ovate, sometimes obovate, oblong or lanceolate; flat, acuminate, base cuneate. Margins slightly thickened and downturned; midvein prominent abaxially, sunken above; lateral vein pattern camptodromous; stomata on undersides only. Inflorescences many-flowered; pedicels 1–2 mm long, persistent. Involucral bracts four, smaller than or sometimes the same size as largest ordinary leaves (20–40 × 8–10 mm). Plants gynodioecious. Flowers hairy on outside; inside hairless; fragrant, white, flushed rose or completely pink, lower tube often red. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube to 10 mm long, ovary portion 4 mm, calyx lobes 3.2 × 1.8 mm; staminodes short, at mouth of tube. Female tube to 15 mm long, ovary portion 3.5 mm, calyx lobes 5 × 2.5 mm. Anther filaments long, inserted at mouth of tube; anthers yellow. Ovary densely hairy at summit. Fruits ovoid, green, drying brown, 5 mm long. Seeds narrow ovoid, 4.0 × 1.8 mm. Dried hypanthia persistent often dispersing with fruits inside.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *P. gnidia* (it could be considered as a mostly lowland form of that species) from which it differs by its longer leaves, longer flowers and preference for mostly coastal to lowland habitats. *Pimelea gnidia* is only coastal in the southern part of its range where *P. longifolia* is not known. Both species are said to frequently hybridise (see Burrows 2008).

## FLOWERING

September - April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

November - June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Fickle. Can be grown from cuttings, and occasionally seed germinates in garden conditions. Does best in full sun on a well drained soil. However, even well established plants are prone to sudden collapse.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**longifolia:** Long leaf

## ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Burrows (2008).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Burrows, C.J. 2008: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 1. The taxonomic treatment of seven endemic, glabrous-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 127-176.

## MORE INFORMATION

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