

Pimelea notia

COMMON NAMES

pimelea

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED 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).

FLOWER COLOURS

White

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.

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

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.

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.



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

GENUS

Pimelea

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimela notia C.J.Burrows et Thorsen

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2011)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

January - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

PIMNOT

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, Sp, TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (30 April 2011) adapted from Burrows (2011).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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