

Pimelea poppelwellii

COMMON NAME

Poppelwell's pimelea

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea poppelwellii Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PIMPOP

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 80cm tall with reddish twigs bearing pairs of fleshy bright green pointed leaves with a ridge on the underside and hairy white flowers inhabiting the vicinity of the Garvie Ranges, Eyre Mountains and Hump Ridge. Leaves 6-10mm long by 4-6mm wide. Flowers to 9mm long. Fruit dry.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Central Otago and northern Southland. Mainly recorded from the Garvie Range.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine, often extending to lower elevations in distributed habitats. A species of Snow tussock (*Chionochloa* spp.) grassland with herbs, and also of low shrubland and rocky sites.



Umbrella Range, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Flowers (dried; top), fruit (middle), seed (bottom). Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect much-branched shrub up to 1 m or more tall. All parts except leaf-axils glabrous; branches stout, bark dark red-brown. Leaves close-set, subimbricate, on stout, fleshy petioles up to 1 mm long; lamina erect to subpatent, 6-10 x 4-6 mm, dark green, paler below and more or less keeled, broad-ovate to ovate-oblong, apex obtuse to subacute, abruptly narrowed at base; firmly fleshy, thick and coriaceous; margins distinctly though slightly thickened. Subfloral leaves distinctly membranous and broader than other leaves. Inflorescence in 5-16-flowered heads. Perianth white or pale rose, densely silky-hairy; tube 6-9 mm long, lobes 2-3 mm long, ovate-oblong to oblong. Fruit 2 mm long, ovoid, dark brown to black, hairy at apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically perhaps closest to *P. traversii* which it closely resembles except that it has red-brown rather than dark-brown to almost black bark, and the leaves are petiolate and close-set to subimbricate rather than quadrifariouly imbricating and sessile.

FLOWERING

November – March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

January – May

LIFE CYCLE

Dry achenes are dispersed by wind and possibly ants (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Not known in cultivation. Probably easy from cuttings but difficult to maintain like so many New Zealand *Pimelea*.

THREATS

Rather poorly known so its exact distribution is unclear and further field work is needed

ETYMOLOGY

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

poppelwellii: After Poppelwell

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description modified from Allan (1961) but see also Burrows (2008).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

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

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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