

# Pimelea prostrata subsp. seismica

## COMMON NAMES

pinātoro

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing shrub with branches that are densely hairy towards the tip and bearing pairs of blue-green narrow leaves that which join the stem at a small bump, hairy white flowers and white fruit inhabiting the North Island and Northwest Nelson. Leaves 4-8mm long by 2.2-3.2mm wide.

## FLOWER COLOURS

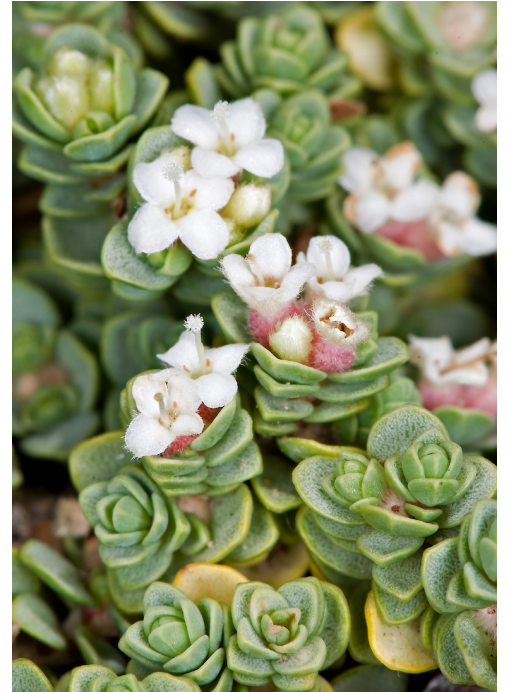
White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small to medium-sized, much-branched, prostrate, sometimes decumbent, low shrub. Main stems to 40 cm long, stout, flexible or stiff. Young stems brown, moderately or very hairy. Branching is both sympodial and lateral and the laterals are few to numerous, long, usually flexible and moderately thick. Internodes 1–5 mm long. Older stems glabrous and grey-brown to dark-brown. Node buttresses usually short (0.3 mm) lunate, brown. More elongate node buttresses may occur on the same plants. They are not prominent on leafless stems. Leaves ascendant, then patent to deflexed, on short (0.3–0.5 mm) red petioles. Lamina ovate, elliptic or often oblong, 4–8 × 2.2–3.2 mm, light green, glaucous, acute or sometimes obtuse, flat or slightly adaxially concave, margins slightly upturned, midvein evident abaxially. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 4–6-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, smaller than, or similar in size to adjacent leaves (5 × 3 mm). Flowers white, moderately hairy outside; inside hairless. Female tube 3.5 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 1.3 × 0.9 mm; Perfect flower tube 4 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1 mm. Ovary has sparse hair on summit and to about two-thirds of the way down. Fruits oblate, white, opaque 5.4 × 4 mm. Seeds broad ovoid 2.2 × 1.6 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Plants of the *Pimelea prostrata* complex are distinguished by the prostrate to decumbent growth habit; by the glabrous to sparse or moderate hair covering on young stem internodes and by the thin and pliable, completely glabrous leaves with stomata clearly visible on both leaf surfaces. *Pimelea prostrata* subsp. *seismica* is distinguished from subsp. *prostrata*, subsp. *thermalis*, subsp. *ventosa* and subsp. *vulcanica* by the lunate node buttresses; relatively densely hairy young stems that become smooth and glabrous with age, and acute leaves.



Moa Point, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 11/01/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Stem showing leaf scars. Moa Point, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 11/01/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: North Cape and near Cape Reinga, scattered along the west coast of the North Island to Auckland, Wellington. South Island: North-west to as far south as Cape Foulwind.

## HABITAT

Coastal to slightly inland. In open sites on grassy slopes and in shrublands or dunes, on cliffs or rock outcrops.

## THREATS

Unknown. Burrows (2009) implies it is severely threatened but without any backing evidence. In future threat listings subsp. *seismica* would probably be assigned Data Deficient.

## GENUS

*Pimelea*

## FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pimelea prostrata* subsp. *seismica* C.J.Burrows

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2009)

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FRUITING

December - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and rooted pieces. Seed is difficult to germinate. Best grown in a well drained soil in full sun. An excellent plant for the rockery.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**prostrata**: Prostrate

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 36$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Burrows, C.J. 2009. Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 2. The endemic *Pimelea prostrata* and *Pimelea urvilliana* species complexes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 2009, Vol. 47: 163–229

**ATTRIBUTION**

Description from: Burrows (2009).

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-prostrata-subsp-seismica/>

**PDF DATE**

27 May 2026