

# Pimelea sericeovillosa subsp. pulvinaris

## SYNONYMS

*Pimelea pulvinaris* C.J.Burrows

## FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pimelea sericeovillosa* subsp. *pulvinaris* (C.J.Burrows) C.J.Burrows

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

PIMSSP

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rounded low hairy cushions bearing hairy upward pointing leaves small hairy white flowers and yellow or orange fruit inhabiting inland Canterbury and Otago. 1–2 flowers per twig tip.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Mid Canterbury (Mackenzie Basin), south Canterbury and western central Otago; formerly in the lower Waitaki valley near Kurow).

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine. In valley and basin floors occupying dry, windswept places, usually with stony substrates and fine-textured, loess-derived matrix, within short vegetation cover. Often on moraine crests, as well as alluvial fans and river terraces.



*Pimelea pulvinaris* Mt Iron. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



*Pimelea pulvinaris* Mt Iron. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low, compact, much-branched, pale green cushion-forming shrublet to 50 × 250 mm. with brown, tightly packed, appressed, leafy, densely villous young branchlets (older stems usually not visible but retaining dead leaves which cover branchlets inside the cushion). **Internode length** 0.3–0.6 mm. **Branching** mainly sympodial and radiating from a stout main stem up to 15 mm in diameter. **Node buttresses** lunate, dark brown, masked by hairs on young stems, not prominent on leafless branchlets. **Leaves** decussate, ascending, imbricate, sessile or with very short petioles (0.2 mm). **Lamina** medium to pale green, elliptic to oblong, 2.2–4.0 × 1.0–1.3 mm, adaxially concave, mid-vein not evident, abaxial surface densely covered with straight, white or greyish-white, moderately long hairs; adaxial surface moderately densely hairy, sometimes glabrate (the youngest leaves have more or less dense adaxial vestiture), obtuse, base cuneate, stomata on both adaxial and abaxial surfaces. **Inflorescences** terminal, with 1 or 2, sometimes 3, flowers. **Involucral bracts** 4, the same size as, or slightly wider than, adjacent leaves (2.3 × 1.5 mm). **Receptacle** usually with abundant long hairs. Plants gynodioecious. **Flowers** 1–(2) per inflorescence, white, on very short (0.1 mm) pedicels, very hairy outside, inside hairless. **Female tube** 2.5 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.0–1.2 × 0.5 mm. **Hermaphrodite tube** 3–4 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 0.8–1.0 mm. **Anther dehiscence** introrse. **Ovary** with dense short hairs on summit, less dense to half way down. **Fruits** ovoid, fleshy, yellow or pale orange 2.5–3.0 × 1.8–2.0 mm, seeds narrow-ovoid 2.0–2.2 × 1.0–1.3 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other *P. sericeovillosa* subspecies by its tight, cushion forming habit, pale green colour, restriction to valley and basin floor locations, and by being geographically confined to Mid Canterbury, South Canterbury and western Central Otago.

## FLOWERING

September–January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

December–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings but difficult to maintain in cultivation. Prefers a moist free-draining soil, planted in full sun. Dislikes humidity, shade and poor drainage.

## THREATS

See comments about the “Conservation Status” opinions and their validity as offered by Burrows (2011) under the Fact Sheet for *Pimelea sericeovillosa* subsp. *sericeovillosa*. As *P. pulvinaris* this subspecies was listed as “Declining” by de Lange et al. (2009). This assessment is probably still appropriate but due to the recircumscription of *P. sericeovillosa* to comprise three subspecies this assessment may need to change.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**pulvinaris**: From the Latin pulvinar ‘a cushion’ and -aris ‘resembling’, meaning resembling a cushion i.e. convex or or rather flattened

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (29 September 2011). Description adapted from Burrows (2011).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Burrows CJ. 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(3): 367–412.

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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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-sericeovillosa-subsp-pulvinaris/>