

Pimelea urvilleana subsp. nesica

COMMON NAME

pinātoro

SYNONYMS

Pimelea urvilliana subsp. *nesica* C.J.Burrows orth. var.

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea urvilleana subsp. *nesica* C.J.Burrows

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very low-growing sprawling shrub with white-hairy twigs bearing clustered pairs of narrow blue-green leaves, hairy white flowers and white fruit inhabiting coastal northern North Island south to the Coromandel Peninsula. Leaves 5-8mm long by 2-3.5mm, underside shiny.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: West Auckland Coastline, Hauraki Gulf Islands, Great Barrier, Cuvier, Mercury, Alderman, Mayor, and eastern Coromandel Peninsula offshore islands, near Whangaparaoa (eastern Bay of Plenty).

HABITAT

Mainly on offshore islands, near shore rock stacks and coastal rock outcrops, cliffs, banks, sandy areas, and occasionally in scrub. Favouring sites exposed to salt spray and sometimes on soil enriched by bird excreta.



FEATURES

A small to medium-sized prostrate to decumbent shrub with long, often trailing, flexible branches (to 400 mm). Young stems moderately densely covered in white, appressed hair. Branching sympodial and lateral. Internodes up to 3 mm long. Node buttresses short, lunate, black, shining, masked by hair on youngest stems. Old stems glabrate, grey-brown. Leaves ascendant near branchlet tips, then patent to deflexed, often apparently distichous and relatively distant, on short (0.2 mm) sometimes red petioles or sessile. Lamina pale to medium green, glaucous, moderately thin, elliptic, ovate or sometimes oblong, 5–8 × 2–3.5 mm, flat, or slightly adaxially concave, margin thickened, slightly upturned, acute but often blunt-tipped, midvein obscure abaxially. Stomata abundant on adaxial side, none or very few on abaxial side. Abaxial surface glistens. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, 4–6-flowered. Involucral bracts 4, about the same size as adjacent leaves. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers white, densely hairy outside, inside some hair near top of ovary portion. Female tube 3 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 1.5 × 0.9 mm; hermaphrodite tube 4.2 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latrorse. Ovary densely hairy at summit. Fruits subglobose, fleshy, white, opaque, 5 × 4 mm. Seeds ovoid, 2.7 × 1.6 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pimelea urvilleana is allied to and difficult to distinguish from *P. prostrata*, a species complex with which it shares a similar prostrate to decumbent growth habit. It differs from that species complex by the leaves which are stiff to flexible, elliptic or ovate; and which have stomata visible only on the adaxial leaf surfaces, and by the young stem internodes which are densely covered in bright white hairs. *Pimelea urvilleana* subsp. *urvilleana* differs from subsp. *nesica* by the somewhat shorter and thicker rather than longer and thinner leaves, which are 3–6 mm cf. 5–8 mm long, narrow-elliptic to ovate, rather than elliptic, ovate or oblong, and flat or slightly keeled rather than flat to adaxially concave. The leaf-tip of subsp. *urvilleana* is obtuse while that of subsp. *nesica* is acute (though blunt-pointed). The branchlets of subsp. *urvilleana* are more densely covered in hairs. These differences seem minor and further study is needed to ascertain the validity of accepting the two subspecies

FLOWERING

September - April

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October - June

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

THREATS

Probably not threatened but until the exact circumscription of this new subspecies is understood as a precautionary measure it is probably best treated as Data Deficient

ETYMOLOGY

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

urvilleana: After D’Urville Island, which is named in honour of Jules Sébastien César Dumont d’Urville (23 May 1790 - 8 May 1842) - a French explorer, naval officer and rear admiral, who explored the south and western Pacific, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica.

WHERE TO BUY

Probably commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (17 October 2009). Description adapted from Burrows (2009).

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* 47: 163–229.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pimelea-urvilleana-subsp-nesica/>