

Pimelea gnidia

COMMON NAME

pimelea

SYNONYMS

Banksia gnidia J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.; *Passerina gnidia* L.f.; *Cookia gnidia* J.F.Gmel.; *Pimelea gnidia* var. *menziesii* Hook. f.; *Pimelea crosby-smithiana* Petrie

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea gnidia (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Lam.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PIMGNI

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 1.5m tall with reddish twigs bearing pairs of bright green pointed leaves and hairy white flowers inhabiting higher rainfall upland (or sea level in deep south) areas from the Tararua Range to Fiordland. Leaves 5–35mm long by 2–7mm wide. Flowers to 5.5mm long. Fruit dry, enclosing black seed.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North (southern third), and South Island (westerly from Nelson to Fiordland)

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland (southern part of range only) otherwise montane to subalpine. On rock, rock debris, leached acidic mineral soil, and peaty loam in open forest, forest margins and scrub on stream margins, landslides, valley heads, moraines, heathlands, burnt forest areas.



Turnbull, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/12/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Turnbull, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/12/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An erect to suberect much-branched shrub up to 1.5 m tall (reduced in stature on exposed sites and poor soils). Branches and branchlets ascending, glabrous or sparsely hairy at leaf axils and hairy on receptacles; internodes usually short. Node buttresses, brown or black, occupy the whole internode and may be prominent after leaf fall; internodes 2–7 mm long. Bark ages to grey. Leaves decussate, ascending, later sometimes patent or deflexed, often imbricate, on petioles 1–3 mm long. Lamina pale to medium or olive green, coriaceous, elliptic, ovate or sometimes oblong, obovate or lanceolate, 5–35 × 2–7 mm, keeled, acute, blunt-pointed or slightly apiculate, base cuneate. Margins thickened, slightly down-turned; midvein prominent abaxially, sunken above; lateral vein pattern camptodromous but not clearly evident; stomata only on under side. Inflorescences few to many-flowered, pedicels 1–2 mm long, persistent. Involucral bracts 4, similar to leaves but usually wider. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers hairy on outside; inside hairless, fragrant, white or flushed rose, sometimes wholly pink often with lower tube red. Calyx lobes open in salverform fashion. Female tube to 5.5 mm long, ovary portion 3 mm, calyx lobes 3.5 × 1.8 mm. female tube to 9 mm long, ovary portion 3.5 mm, calyx lobes 3.2 × 1.8 mm; staminodes short, at mouth of tube. Anther filaments inserted below mouth of tube; anthers yellow. Ovary with short hairs at summit and to about half-way down. Fruits ovoid, green, drying brown, 4 mm long. Seeds ovoid 3.4 × 1.6 mm. The dried hypanthia disperse with fruits inside.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *P. longifolia* (it could be considered an upland form of that species) from which it differs by its smaller leaves, shorter flowers and preference for mostly subalpine habitats. *Pimelea gnidia* is only coastal in the southern part of its range where *P. longifolia* is not known. Both species are said to frequently hybridise (see Burrows 2008).

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Fickle. Can be grown from cuttings, and occasionally seed germinates in garden conditions. Does best in full sun on a well drained soil. However, even well established plants are prone to sudden collapse.

ETYMOLOGY

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

gnidia: Named after the genus *Gnidia* which is also in the Thymelaeaceae family. *Gnidia* is named after *Gnidus*, a town in Crete.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Pimelea crosby-smithiana previously regarded as a distinct species is now regarded as part of the natural variation of *P. gnidia*.

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Burrows (2008).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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