

# Pimelea prostrata subsp. prostrata

## COMMON NAME

pinātoro, New Zealand daphne, Strathmore weed

## SYNONYMS

*P. laevigata* Sol. ex Gaertn pro parte; *P. prostrata* f. *parvifolia* Allan

## FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pimelea prostrata* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Willd. subsp. *prostrata*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 36, 72, 90$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing shrub with sparsely hairy branches to 300mm long bearing pairs of blue-green narrow leaves that which join the stem at a small ridge, hairy white flowers and white fruit inhabiting open sites south from near Auckland. Leaves 3-6mm long by 1.5-4mm wide, tip rounded.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: South Auckland, Taranaki, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, eastern Wairarapa, and near Wellington. South Island: Marlborough, Nelson, Westland, Canterbury, Otago, Southland

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. In open sites, such as coastal gravel, sand dunes, and mudstone cliffs; on ultramafic rock, mudstone, sandstone, marble, limestone, gravel river floodplains; vegetated places, in open scrub, low grassland, Schoenus marsh, Sphagnum bog, around tarn margins.



Te Paki. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small shrub; stems prostrate, often thin and flexible, creeping on open areas or in low vegetation, pendent on banks, cliffs, up to 300 mm long. Stems may be partially buried on sandy substrates; adventitious roots may develop on these, or on stems in moist habitats. Branching sympodial and lateral. Branchlets uniformly yellowish-brown to brown, usually smooth but sometimes muricate, glabrous except in leaf axils and on receptacles, or sparsely to moderately clad in short, silky hair. Internodes 1–4 mm long. Older stems grey-brown to dark grey. Node buttresses light to medium brown, occupying part or all of the internode; occasionally prominent on leafless branches. Leaves close (exposed or drier sites) or distant (shaded sites), patent, on short red petioles. Lamina glaucous, often red-margined, usually 3–6 × 1.5–4 mm, thin, elliptic to broad-elliptic, flat, tip obtuse. Inflorescences 5–8-flowered, terminal on branchlets. Involucral bracts to 5.6 × 4.2 mm. Flowers relatively sparsely hairy outside, inside hairless, on very short pedicels (0.2 mm). Female tube 2.5 mm long, ovary portion red, 2 mm; calyx lobes 1.2 × 1.2 mm; h tube 4.8 mm long, ovary portion 2 mm; calyx lobes 2 × 1.5 mm. Ovary moderately hairy at summit. Fruits broad ovoid to globose, fleshy, white, opaque 4.2 × 2.8 mm. Seeds narrow-ovoid 2.5 × 1.5 mm, crest very thin.

## 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. *prostrata* is distinguished from subsp. *seismica*, subsp. *thermalis*, subsp. *ventosa* and subsp. *vulcanica* by the node buttresses elongate to covering the entire internode length; glabrous to moderately hairy young stems, and by the flat leaves with obtuse leaf -tips.

## FLOWERING

September - May

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

October - July

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

**prostrata:** Prostrate

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from: Burrows (2008).

## 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

## MORE INFORMATION

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