

Pimelea urvilleana subsp. urvilleana

COMMON NAME

pinātoro

SYNONYMS

Pimelea urvilliana A.Rich. subsp. *urvilliana* other. var.; *Pimelea urvilliana* A.Rich. orth. var.; *Pimelea prostrata* var. *urvilleana* (A. Rich.)

FAMILY

Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY

Pimelea urvilleana A.Rich. subsp. *urvilleana*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very low-growing sprawling shrub with densely white-hairy twigs bearing clustered pairs of thick blue-green leaves, hairy white flowers and white fruit inhabiting coastal areas south to Nelson. Leaves 3-6mm long by 2-3mm, underside shiny.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: widespread, often common from Three Kings, throughout coastal Northland, thence mostly easterly south to the Wairarapa and south Taranaki. South Island: Tasman Bay (Astrolabe Passage), Marlborough Sounds.

HABITAT

Coastal. Rock outcrops, cliffs, sometimes in scrub.



Kaihoka, Golden Bay. Photographer: Simon Walls, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Little Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Date taken: 01/02/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A small to medium-sized prostrate shrub; stems moderately stout but flexible, up to 300 mm long. Branching notably sympodial with some laterals. Branchlets densely covered by matted white hair. Internodes 1–3 mm long. Older stems slightly hairy, grey-brown. Node buttresses smooth, black, lunate, masked by hair on young stems. Leaves decussate but usually distichously arranged, ascendant on youngest branchlets, patent later. Lamina 3–6 × 2–3 mm, thick, narrow-elliptic to ovate, flat or slightly keeled. Tip usually obtuse. Stomata abundant adaxially, none or rare abaxially. Abaxial surface glistens. Inflorescences 5–7-flowered compact, receptacles very hairy. Involucral bracts 4, similar in size to adjacent leaves. Plants gynodioecious. Flowers small, white, outside very hairy, inside sparsely hairy in upper tube. Calyx lobes opening in salverform fashion or ascendant. Female tube 1.8 mm long, ovary portion wrinkled, 1.5 mm, calyx lobes 1.2 × 1 mm. hermaphrodite tube 3.8 mm long, ovary portion 2.5 mm, calyx lobes 2 × 1.5 mm. Anther dehiscence semi-latrorse. Ovary with a tuft of long hair on summit. Fruits white, fleshy, opaque 5 × 3.5 mm. Seeds broad ovoid 3 × 1.8 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

See *Pimelea urvilleana* subsp. *nesica*. Description from: 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.

FLOWERING

Unknown. Burrows (2009) states: Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Unknown.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and rooted pieces. As with other *pimelea* seed is probably difficult to germinate.

THREATS

See notes

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 not commercially available

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Burrows (2009) offers a very clear (for the first time ever for this species) interpretation of *Pimelea urvilleana*, and as such splits it into two subspecies. Based on that interpretation he argues that *P. urvilleana* subsp. *urvilleana* is close to if not already extinct. However, it is stated that the genome survives in hybrids. No evidence is provided to back that claim up beyond empirical observations and some minor morphological assessments of herbarium material. Subsequent field work has shown that *Pimelea urvilleana* subsp. *urvilleana* is widespread, often common and not threatened. The distinctions offered for *Pimelea urvilleana* subsp. *nesica* seem dubious especially as specimens with characters of both subspecies can be found on the same plant.

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pimelea urvilleana* subsp. *urvilleana* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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