

# *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea*



**FAMILY:** THYMELAEACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Pimelea curviflora*  
var. *sericea*, Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 6: 31 (1873)

**COMMON NAME:** Curved rice flower

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (EPBC Act)  
Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (TSP Act) rare

*Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* (foreground).  
Photographs: H & A Wapstra.

## Description

An erect, hairy undershrub to 30 cm tall. **Stems:** The young stems have hairs that are up to 1.2 mm long. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. They are narrow or with tip end broader than the base, up to 20 mm long, dull green in colour with the margins curved inwards. The leaves can be rather densely covered in hairs on the lower surface, although they are sometimes hairless on top or covered with smaller hairs. **Flowers:** The flowers are in small heads at the ends of branches or clusters in the axils (where stem meets leaves). They are yellow-green in colour and can be sometimes dark red on the tips. There can be either 2 or no bracts (leaf-like structures) associated with the flowers. The flowering time for this species is between October to January. **Fruit:** The fruit is dry. Herbarium specimens have been collected between October and December. **Confusing species:** This species can be distinguished from other *Pimelea* species as there are hairs on both leaf surfaces (description from Gray *et al.* 2001, Flora of Australia 1990, Harris *et al.* 2001).

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. In Tasmania, the habitat of *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* includes plains grasslands, valley and dry sclerophyll forests. It is often found in calcareous and sandy soils. This species is found around the Furneaux Group (Gray *et al.* 2001, Flora of Australia 1990, Harris *et al.* 2001).



### **Key Sites and Populations**

Key populations for this species include Badger Island, where a population greater than 100 individuals is found. The only reserved population at Trousers Point in the Strzelecki National Park is relatively small. Lughrata Dunes provides a larger, though more scattered population of greater than 300 individual plants (S. Harris pers. comm).

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in Strzelecki National Park on Flinders Island.

### **Ecology and Management**

Butterflies and long-tongued flies are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

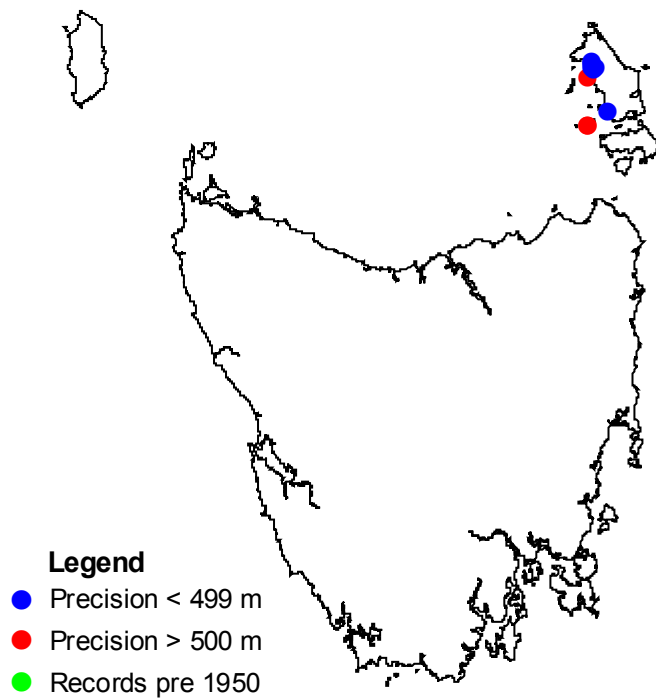
The taxonomy of this species is confused. In the census, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *gracilis* and *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* have been merged into *Pimelea curviflora*. However, the Threatened Species Unit will treat these entities separately until the taxonomic status is clarified. If *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* is confirmed as a separate taxon, it should be reassessed as it may qualify for a higher risk status than rare.

### **Further Information**

- Corrick, MG & Fuhrer, B 2000, *Wildflowers of Victoria*, Blooming Books, Victoria.
- Eddy, D, Mallinson, D, Rehwinkel, R & Sharp S 1998, *Grassland Flora: A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT)*, Environment ACT, Australia.
- Flora of Australia 1990, *Volume 18: Podostemaceae to Combretaceae*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
- Gray, M & Knight, J eds 2001, *Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area*, Hyland House Publishing, Melbourne.
- Harris, S, Buchanan, A & Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Badger, Emita, Loccota.

Date last modified: 18/07/2005