

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering stems. Photographer Richard Hartland, Mt Baw Baw, Vic



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Colin Totterdell, Kosciuszko National Park

Common name

Alpine Rice-flower

Family

Thymelaeaceae

Where found

Woodland, heath, grassland, alpine **herbfields**, and rocky areas. Kosciuszko National Park.

Notes

Shrub to 0.3 m high, or sprawling to **prostrate** and mat-like. Stems hairless, tough and **wiry**. Branchlets rough with conspicuous leaf scars. Leaves opposite each other in pairs at right angles, crowded towards the ends of the branches, 0.3–1.3 cm long, 1–5 mm wide, concave in cross section, hairless, often **glaucous**, both surfaces the same colour or the lower surface slightly paler, usually medium green. Flowers sweetly scented. Flowers female or bisexual. Sometimes apparently functionally male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers pinkish red to pink or white, 5–8 mm long, tubular, with 4 **spreading** lobes each about 2 mm long. Flowers hairy with coarse hairs outside, sparsely hairy or hairless inside, in **heads** of 5–18 flowers, surrounded by 4 hairless green **bracts** each 0.4–0.9 cm long, 2–5 mm wide. Flowers July–Mar. Fruit 3–4 mm long, dry, green, enclosed in the now brown **hypanthium** base.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Pimelea~alpina> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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