

Between Whakatane and Opotiki is a sealed highway that passes through coastal Ohope, then skirts the Ohiiwa Harbour in many places, crosses the Wainui farmlands to meet Highway 2 a little before the Kutarere settlement, which is some 12 miles from Opotiki.

In mid-September, shortly after leaving Ohope, I observed on a roadside bank several patches of soft-yellow flowers denoting the fact that here grew plants of kumarahau, Pomaderris kumeraho. This is the southern limit of this species for the eastern coast, and this was the densest mass seen recently, a few stragglers only being sighted several miles further on. Needing a few more plants for the Hikutai Domain, I scrambled up through the stunted gorse to get them, noticing on the way small plants of Leptospermum scoparium and Pomaderris phyllicifolia var. ericifolia, also both in flower. Gathering some small plants of the kumarahau, I then noticed several plants of Pimelea prostrata, but these were not prostrate, they were growing erectly to about 30 cm tall. Flowers were evident here also. I took several of these plants so that I could check them as well.

Continuing on past Kutarere, I noticed growing in the harbour mudflats the most southern plants of mangrove, Avicennia resinifera, while some thousand yards further on, opposite a clump of kahikatea, Podocarpus dacrydioides, were a number of black beech trees, Nothofagus solandri var. solandri. These are in a very isolated patch, many miles from their more inland brothers of the Ureweras, or their cousins Nothofagus fusca (and hybrids) which also grow inland and in the high hills near the coast from Waimana to Hicks Bay.

Once home I re-examined the Pimelea prostrata, compared it with another coastal prostrate plant of the same species, and then checked it in Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1 by Allan. There seemed no doubt as to the correct identity, and further it appeared to match very closely Carse's description of a Wellsford plant under var. erecta which reads " this specimen has branches erect or ascending at narrow angle, slender; leaf scars with persistent tufts of hairs. Leaves close-set, narrowed to minute petioles, coriaceous, glab. Subfloral lvs. shorter, broader. Infl. \pm 8 fld. Plant seldom more than 4 dm tall."

It may be of interest to state that this plant grows in soil of the yellow-brown pumice type. Also map references on N.Z. M S. 18 Series are:-

<u>Pimelea prostrata</u> var. <u>erecta</u>	- N 45 - 4624
<u>Avicennia resinifera</u>	- N 45 - 5814
<u>Nothofagus solandri</u>	- N 45 - 5915