ERICACEAE
Phyllococe empetriformis (Sw) D. Don
Phem

red mountain-heather, pink mountain-heath

FORM: Matted subshrub, 10-40cm (4-16in) tall.

STEMS: Young stems finely puberulent, soon glabrous.

LEAVES: Alternate, evergreen, linear, fir-like, 8-16mm long, deeply grooved beneath, inrolled creating a false margin (1), leaves closely crowded on stems.

FLOWERS: Deep pinkish-rose, bell-shaped about 7mm long; single in axils, clustered at stem tips; June-Aug.

FRUIT: Capsule (2).

SIMILAR SPECIES: Phyllococe glanduliflora (yellow mountain-heath), flower yellowish to white; P. empetriformis and P. glanduliflora will freely hybridize.

HABITAT: High elevation, normally on north aspect of open ridges.