



Pterostylis agathicola

Common Name(s):

Kauri greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island from Te Pahi south to Te Kauri Scenic Reserve in the west and the northern Kaimai Range in the east

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 720 m a.s.l.). Virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don) Lindl.) dominated forest where it usually found growing in leaf litter close to the trunks of large kauri trees.

Features*:

Terrestrial tuberous herb growing as solitary plants or in diffuse colonies. Plants dimorphic. Sterile plants 60-100 mm tall; 2-3-leaved; leaves narrowly linear-lanceolate, 30-60 x 3-6 mm, dark green, entire, acute to acuminate. Flowering plants 100-350 mm tall, stems green or pale green, rarely reddish. Leaves 3-4, cauline, widely spaced, spreading; lamina narrowly lanceolate, 40-100 x 5-8 mm, dark green or pale green, sessile, sheathing at base; midrib prominent; margins entire; apex acuminate. Pedicels 10 mm long, slender. Ovary 9-12 mm long, ribbed. Flowers 1(-2), 24-28 mm long, erect or slightly leaning forwards, translucent white and dark green with red brown suffusions at the apex of the galea and lateral sepals; galea gibbous at the base then erect before bending forwards, the apex flat, erect or decurved, the dorsal sepal much longer than the petals. Dorsal sepal ovate-lanceolate in outline when flattened, 33-37 x 12-16 mm, prominent expanded near the base then tapered to the long-acuminate apex. Lateral sepals erect, loosely embracing the galea leaving a prominent lateral gap to the petal margins; upper part of sinus flat or shallowly mounded when viewed from the side, with a deep narrow, central notch when viewed from the front; conjoined part 8-11 x 6-9 mm, narrowed to c.2.5 mm wide at the base, tapered into the free points; free points 20-26 mm long, tapered, erect, the tips extending high above the galea. Petals obliquely linear-lanceolate, 17-22 x 3-4 mm, strongly falcate, acuminate, green with white stripes, red-brown towards the apex. Labellum erect, curved forwards in the distal third, the apex twisted strongly to the right and protruding prominently through the sinus in the set position; labellum hinge ligulate 3 x 2 mm; lamina narrowly ovate-lanceolate to elliptical lanceolate, 9.0-11.0 x 3.0-3.3 mm, dark green to brownish with a darker reddish central callus, apex subobtusate to slightly emarginate; callus 0.6 mm wide near apex, raised; basal appendage 2.5-3.0 mm long, decurved, apex penicillate. Column 12-14 mm long, bent away from the ovary at 45 degrees at the base then erect, green and white; column foot 4 mm long. Column wings 5-6 mm long; basal lobe 3 x 1 mm, at an angle of about 35 degrees. apex obtuse, inner margins incurved, sparsely and shortly ciliate; mid-section 2.5 mm long; green; apical lobe 1 mm long, linear, obtuse. Stigma scutiform 3.0-3.5 x 2.0 mm, medial on the column, raised. Anther 1.8 mm long, very shortly rostrate. Pollinia linear-falcate, 1.3-1.4 mm long, yellow, mealy. Capsules narrowly-ellipsoid, 20-24 x 5-7 mm.

Flowering:

July - October

Fruiting:

August - December

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description based on Jones et al. (1997).

References and further reading:

Jones, D.L.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Clements, M.A. 1997: Six new species of *Pterostylis* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 266-281

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1207



Caption: *Pterostylis agathicola* in flower at Totara North

Photographer: Bill Campbell



Caption: Te Pahi.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe