



Pterostylis areolata

Common Name(s):

Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from the Tararua Ranges and possibly the Ruahines. In the South Island widespread, mainly east of the main divide but also in Nelson and Fiordland.

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine. In short or tall tussock grassland, grey scrub, on the margins of wetlands and in open forest.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, either solitary in forming small patches of 3-8 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 70-250 mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green to reddish green, internodes < leaves. Leaves 2-4, with entire margins, shape changing from base to top of stem; lamina 30-90 x 10-25 mm, dark green to yellow-green, the lowest and those of non-flowering plants, broadly elliptic, elliptic, to obovate, apex obtuse to subacute, tapering to a reddish-green broadly winged petiole; uppermost leaves shorter, acute to acuminate; not overtopping the flower. Flower solitary, tipping forwards, large, dark green, green striped with white toward the back of the galea. Ovary erect. Dorsal sepal 30-35 mm tall, mostly erect then sharply horizontal to deflexed, apex shortly acuminate without caudae; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, apices acuminate to shortly caudate, rarely exceeding galea, usually narrowly spreading, decurved. Petals slightly shorter than dorsal sepal, very broad, apex acute. Labellum basally red, apex often distinctly darker; lamina elliptic, slightly arched, toward a narrowly obtuse, flat or pinched in apex. Column mostly taller than labellum; stigma elongate-ovate with a prominent truncate apex.

Flowering:

October - November

Fruiting:

November - February

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1208



Caption: Mount Cass

Photographer: Melissa Hutchison