



Pterostylis australis

Common Name(s):

Southern Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island present only from the the East Cape area south and becoming more common in the southern third of the island.

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine (up to 1200 m a.s.l.) in scrub and tall forest. Generally preferring beech (*Nothofagus* Blume) dominated forest in the North and South Islands. Mostly montane in the North Island. Sometimes found in forestry plantations.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb forming large colonies through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 100-250 mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green to reddish green, internodes < leaves. Leaves 4-5, shape changing from base to top of stem; lamina 40-150 x 10-16 mm, dark green to yellow-green, the lowest and those of non-flowering plants, elliptic to broadly elliptic, apex subacute, base subsessile or with a reddish-green winged petiole, margins entire or sometimes finely toothed; mid-stem and upper leaves longer and slightly narrower, more tapered, rarely narrowly lanceolate, margins entire or finely denticulate, 1, 2 or none of the leaves overtopping the flower. Flower solitary, large, dark green to pale green striped with white. Ovary erect. Dorsal sepal 25-45 mm tall, often rather smoothly arcuate but sometimes erect below then sharply horizontal above, apex acuminate often shortly caudate; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, apices strongly reflexed backwards, spreading. Petals shorter than dorsal sepal, acute or acuminate. Labellum basally dark green flushed red or red from mid-section to apex, apex distinctly darker; lamina lanceolate-oblong, slightly arched, broadened almost to middle then narrowing to an obtuse, more or less deflexed, and decurved, pinched tip. Column as tall as labellum; stigma linear, often as broad as column, sometimes overlapped by wings from above.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

January - April

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=1209



Caption: Upper Eglinton Valley, Fiordland NP

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: *Pterostylis australis*

Photographer: DoC