



Pterostylis graminea

Common Name(s):

Grass-leaved Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 1000 m a.s.l.) mainly in indigenous forest, also in gumland scrub, peat bogs and within the more fertile lag zone of wetland margins. A variable species which in the current broad sense adopted by the New Zealand Flora series has no clear habitat preferences.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, mostly solitary or forming small patches of 3-5 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 10-330 mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green, to reddish green, internodes < leaves. Leaves strictly erect, up to 4-6(-8), with entire margins, size changing from base to top of stem; the largest leaf on stem 80-150 x 5-10 mm, usually smaller, green to yellow-green, all linear-lanceolate, keeled with long-acuminate apices, widest near the sessile sheathing base, overtopping the flower. Flower solitary, usually tipping slightly forwards, small and delicate, front closely striped dark green and white, back of galea sparingly striped with green, mostly completely white. Ovary erect. Dorsal sepal 18-30 mm tall, erect then sharply horizontal, bearing few, widely spaced bands of green, the spacing of these widening toward rear to leave broad white bands or a completely white back; apex distinctly down-curved, acuminate to shortly caudate; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, initially erect, apex curved to the front of galea, acuminate, shortly caudate, overtopping galea. Petals broad almost to apex, a little shorter than dorsal sepal. Labellum basally red otherwise greenish-brown or green with a distinctly darker apex; lamina oblong to narrowly oblong, slightly arched and then bend forward smoothly and symmetrically between the lateral sepals, flat in cross-section, with midrib only slightly prominent, and grading from weakly to completely indiscernible toward apex, apex emarginate. Column more or less tall as the labellum; stigma narrow, scarcely distinguished from column.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

October - 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=1213



Caption: Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Tamahunga.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe