



Pterostylis humilis

Common Name(s):

Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from the Central Volcanic Plateau and Mt Taranaki/Egmont, in the South Island in the west from north-west Nelson to about the Buller River

Habitat:

Montane to subalpine in beech (*Nothofagus* Blume) forest and subalpine scrub. Often in deep drifts of leaf litter, or amongst mosses. Sometimes on bear ground or growing at the base of boulders.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, forming colonies through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 45-50(-150) mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green, to blue-green, immersed within a loose basal rosette of leaves until the fruiting ovary elongates the stem. Leaves erect to somewhat spreading, 3-4, margins entire, though usually undulose in the basal third, overtopping the flower; lamina 40-90 x 15-25 mm, dark green to blue-green, broadly elliptic to oblong, apex obtuse to broadly subacute, base gradually narrowing into a broadly winged sheathing petiole. Flower solitary, erect, dark green, white striped. Ovary mostly erect. Dorsal sepal 20 mm tall, erect then horizontal; apex shortly acuminate; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, initially erect, apex acuminate to shortly caudate, overtopping galea. Petals almost as long as dorsal sepal, broad almost to apex. Labellum elliptic, shortly recurved, cucullate, scarcely protruding, apex acute, glabrous. Column slightly shorter than labellum; stigma prominent, broadly cordate, upward facing

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - March

Threats:

Not Threatened but not very common either. May qualify for listing as Sparse.

*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=1214



Caption: *Pterostylis humilis*
Photographer: Nick Singers



Caption: *Pterostylis humilis*
Photographer: Nick Singers