



Pterostylis irsoniana

Common Name(s):

Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands, from East Cape South to Wellington, then mainly in the West of the South Island to about Haast.

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine (montane to subalpine in the northern part of range) up to 1200 m a.s.l. In beech (*Nothofagus* Blume) forest, Podocarp forest, frost flats and subalpine scrub. Often in deep drifts of leaf litter or on the margins of sphagnum bogs.

Features*:

Terrestrial, summer-green, tuberous perennial herb. Plants solitary or in colonies, up to 350 mm tall when flowering. Stem stout, erect, terete, smooth, internodes < to << leaves, dark green to reddish green. Leaves 3-5(-8), all cauline, increasing in size from base to top, upper most leaves overtopping flower; largest leaf on stem (40-)150(-200) x 5-12(-18) mm; dark green to yellow-green often tinged with red or pink, linear-lanceolate, widest near sheathing base, tapering to an acuminate apex; more or less keeled, midrib prominent, yellow to yellowish cream, lateral veins less obvious. Flower solitary, reddish green. Ovary erect to slightly inclined, dark green deeply ribbed, ribs often reddish. Dorsal sepal (15-)25(-30) mm long, the erect part usually longer than the rest, apex acuminate to shortly caudate; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, apices acuminate to shortly caudate, not greatly exceeding the galea. Petals slightly shorter than dorsal sepal, apices narrow-acuminate. Labellum narrowly deltoid and protruding, gently arched but consistently curled sharply downwards at the narrow, cucullate, apex deeply emarginate; midrib not evident in distal portion, proximally prominent and more or less papillose or bearing sparse calli, terminating basally in a prominent, projecting dark red to maroon-black callus. Column almost as long as labellum; stigma long and narrow.



Caption: *Pterostylis irsoniana*
Photographer: DoC

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

December - 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=1215