



Pterostylis montana

Common Name(s):

Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Exact distribution unclear as this is a species complex

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine (up to 1200 m a.s.l.) in a wide range of habitats from dense forest to restiad peat bogs. An extremely variable species which probably comprises several as yet unnamed entities. Until these are teased out the exact ecological preferences of *P. montana* s.s. are difficult to describe.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, either solitary in forming small patches of 3-10 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 30-350 mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green, bronze-green to reddish green, internodes << leaves. Leaves up to 6, strongly keeled, with entire margins, size changing from base to top of stem; the largest leaf on stem 140-180 x 10 mm usually smaller, green to yellow-green, lower leaves and leaves of non-flowering plants broadly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, otherwise linear-lanceolate with acuminate apices, widest near the sessile sheathing base, more or less overtopping the flower. Flower solitary, erect or tipping forwards, small and almost broadly tabular, bronze-green, dark green to yellow green, usually striped with white, cream or pale green toward the back of the galea. Ovary erect. Dorsal sepal 18-30 mm tall, erect then sharply horizontal, apex horizontal, abruptly truncate and usually acute to shortly acuminate; lateral sepals separating from each other early in bud, diverging at a narrow to wide angle, more or less erect, apices acuminate not greatly exceeding galea in mature flower often twisted or recurving forwards. Petals slightly shorter than dorsal sepal, broad right to tip. Labellum basally red or reddish green, apex often distinctly darker; lamina mostly oblong to elongate-oblong, slightly arcuate, broad almost to the constricted, subacute and twisted (usually to the right when viewed from the front); margins deflexed (appearing pinched in) about the almost excurrent midrib. Column as tall as or slightly more than labellum; stigma shortly and broadly oval to cordate, prominent.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

November - March

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=1216



Caption: *Pterostylis montana*

Photographer: DoC



Caption: Tararua Forest Park. Dec 2008.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe