



Bulbophyllum pygmaeum

Common Name(s):

Pygmy tree orchid, Bulbophyllum

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. Three Kings, North, South, Stewart Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Mostly epiphytic on forest tree trunks and branches, sometimes on fallen logs, and found as a also rupestral on rocks, cliff faces or banks.

Features*:

Epiphytic or rupestral, rhizomatous, perennial forming widely spreading or diffuse mats up to 200 mm or more in diameter. Rhizomes heavily branched and intertwined, vermiform, pale pink to white, more or less fleshy, spongy; roots numerous slightly finer than rhizomes otherwise every similar. Pseudobulbs 3-5 mm diameter, green, bright green to pale green, globose, rugose, becoming deeply furrowed and wrinkled with age; each bearing a single leaf arising from the top within a somewhat prominent circular rim. Leaf subsessile to shortly petiolate up to 1.5 mm long; lamina 4-10 x 2-4 mm, dark green to green (rarely reddish green), oblong-ovate to almost orbicular, apex obtuse, upper surface minutely scabrid; undersides prominently keeled. Flower solitary, located on the terminus of a greenish valvate capsule comprising the ovary; peduncle arising from base of pseudobulb, up to 2.5-3.5 mm long at flowering, usually elongating in fruit. Floral bract 1(-2), campanulate-tubular to funneliform, membranous, hyaline or pale white. Pedicel very short (0.5-0.7 mm long), coarsely hirsute; ovary ovoid-ellipsoid, coarsely hirsute, splitting lengthwise at dehiscence. Perianth 1.5-2.0 mm long, white. Sepals minutely hairy, dorsal sepal shorter than lateral sepals. Petals broad, almost meeting behind column. Labellum ovate-oblong, obtuse, more or less thickened, roofing over pouch formed by lateral sepals and column foot. Column barely as long as its foot; wing not exceeding anther.

Flowering:

December - January

Fruiting:

January - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007. Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1381



Caption: *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* growing in New Plymouth, Taranaki
Photographer: John Sawyer



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