



Pterostylis tasmanica

Common Name(s):

Plumed Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Indigenous to Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand known from The Three Kings Islands, Northland, Waikato, Wellington and Nelson.

Habitat:

Scrub or forest margins, in damp mossy areas or drier more exposed sites. Often under gorse or manuka on clay hillsides.

Features*:

Tuberous, terrestrial spring to summer-green, glabrous orchid either solitary or growing in loose groups. Plants at flowering up to 180 mm tall. Stem wiry, smooth, enclosed in 3(-6) foliaceous leaves. Rosette leaves (4-)8(-18); petiole 6-15 mm long, distinctly winged; lamina 15-25 x 6-8 mm, yellow-green to dark green, broadly ovate, elliptical to elliptical-lanceolate, acute; cauline leaves 1-2, narrower and broadly sheathing (closely embracing the stem). Flower 1(-2), up to 25 mm long, clearly separated from subtending foliaceous bract; translucent green with dark green longitudinal and transverse veins, brownish towards galea apex and lateral sepals, galea erect in proximal 2/3 then obliquely erect or curved forwards nearly at 90 degrees. Dorsal sepal 18-23 x 12-13 mm, inflated at base and tapered to apex, with a short filiform apex 0.5-1.5 mm long; lateral sepals deflexed; conjoined part 7-9 x 3-4 mm, tapered to c.2 mm across at the base, with a thickened, dark green central pad, the margins incurved; free points 7-11 mm long, linear, usually brown, parallel or slightly divergent, apex subacute. Petals asymmetric, falcate 15-20 x 1.5-2.0 mm, dark green, narrowed in distal 1/2 to an attenuate, long-acuminate apex. Labellum prominent, protruding from sinus, arching, 13.0-15.0 x 0.5 mm, linear-filiform, clad for most of its length in long yellow plumose cilia, apex terminated by a dark brown, glabrous, somewhat irregular, spheroidal, knob-like callus 2.0 x 1.3 mm. Column erect, 12-14 mm long; column wings 4-5 mm long, basal lobe 1.5 x 1.0 mm, set at an angle of 20 degrees, inner margins incurved, sparsely white ciliate, apex obtuse; mid-section 3 mm long, transparent; apical lobe 1.8 mm long, shortly rostrate. Pollinia 2 mm long, yellow, oblong, mealy. Capsule asymmetrical, 1.2-1.6 x 6.0-8.0 mm, obovoid.

Flowering:

October - December.

Fruiting:

November - February

Threats:

Lack of fires, competition from weeds (gorse) and over-collection by orchid enthusiasts. This species requires frequent disturbance, usually from fires to maintain an open habitat.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 7 April 2007: Description adapted from Jones (1994).

References and further reading:

Janes, J.K.; Dorothy A. S.; Vaillancourt, R.E.; Duretto, M.F. 2010: A new classification for subtribe Pterostylidinae (Orchidaceae), reaffirming *Pterostylis* in the broad sense. *Australian Systematic Botany* 23: 260-269

Jones, D.L. 1994: New species of Orchidaceae from south-eastern Australia. *Muelleria* 8: 177-192.

Jones, D.L.; Clements, M.A.; Molloy, B.P.J 2002: A Synopsis of the Subtribe *Pterostylidinae*. *Australian Orchid Research* 4: 129-146.

Szlachekto, D.L. 2001: Genera et Species Orchidaliium 1. *Polish Botanical Journal* 46: 11-26.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=142



Caption: Surville Cliffs. Sep 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: North Cape. Sep 2011.

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