



Pterostylis paludosa

Common Name(s):

Swamp Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Endemic: North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island present from Great Barrier Island to Waiouru. In the South Island confined to the west from north-west Nelson to about Westport.

Habitat:

Peat bogs and heathlands, usually in well-lit sites amongst mosses and sedges.

Features*:

Terrestrial tuberous herb growing in dense colonies. Sterile plants 40-80 mm tall, 2-4-leaved; leaves linear-lanceolate, 25-60 x 7-11 mm, pale green to yellow-green (rarely dark green), margins entire or finely denticulate, apex subacute. Flowering plants 80-900 mm tall. Leaves 3-4, cauline, obliquely erect, pale green to yellowish green; lamina linear-lanceolate, 50-80 x 7-11 mm wide, sessile, sheathing at the base; margins entire or rarely finely denticulate; apex subacute. Pedicel 20-30 mm long, slender. Ovary 9-17 mm long, asymmetric, ribbed. Flower solitary, 18-20 x 5-6 mm, erect, translucent white and pale green to yellow green; galea gibbous at the base then erect before curving forwards in a shallow curve to the apex, the dorsal sepal slightly longer than the petals. Dorsal sepal ovate-lanceolate in outline when flattened, 24-26 x 13-16 mm, prominently expanded in the proximal third then suddenly narrowed and gradually tapered to the acute apex. Lateral sepals erect, tightly embracing the galea, with no lateral gap; upper part of the sinus very shallowly curved when viewed from the side, sloping to a narrow v when viewed from the front, scabrous; conjoined part 9-11 x 6-9 mm wide at the top, narrowed to 4 mm wide at the base, tapered into the free points; free points 9-11 mm long, tapered, erect, the tips extending just above galea. Petals obliquely oblong-lanceolate, 14-20 x 3-5 mm, falcate, acute, green with a white central area; flange vestigial. Labellum erect, curved suddenly forwards near the apex, raised; basal appendage 2.5-3.0 mm long, decurved, apex penicillate. Column 11.0-13.5 mm long, erect, green and white; column foot 1.5 mm long. Column wings 5.5-7.0 mm long; basal lobe 3.0 x 0.8 mm, at an angle of about 40 degrees, apex obtuse, inner margins incurved, sparsely ciliate; mid-section 2.5 mm long; green; apical lobe linear 1.2 mm long, obtuse. Stigma cordate, 3.0-3.3 x 2.0-2.2 mm, situated just below the column wings, raised. Anther 1.4 mm long, obtuse. Pollinia linear, 2 mm long, yellow, mealy. Capsules narrowly ellipsoid 15-17 x 3.0-3.5 mm, initially yellow green, maturing grey.

Flowering:

September to January

Fruiting:

November to March

Threats:

Habitat loss through wetland drainage, and natural succession to taller vegetation. This species requires frequent disturbance to maintain itself. It is especially abundant following peat fires. The species is also at risk from plant collectors.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description based on Jones et al. (1997).

References and further reading:

Jones, D.L.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Clements, M.A. 1997: Six new species of *Pterostylis* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 266-281.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=143



Caption: Close up of flower head

Photographer: Ian St George



Caption: Photo by Nick Singers

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