



## *Adenochilus gracilis*

### Common Name(s):

None known

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Present from the Coromandel Range south.

### Habitat:

In the northern part of its range usually montane otherwise widespread in lowland to alpine habitats. A species of thick moss mats or deep drifts of semi-decomposed leaf litter under forest, subalpine scrub or in sphagnum moss bordering wetlands. Often found in exotic forests, particularly pine plantations.

### Features\*:

Gracile, terrestrial, rhizomatous, perennial herb without tubers. Plant at flowering up to 200 mm tall. Stem erect, slender. Leaves, glabrous, petiolate and cauline. Petiolate leaf arising from rhizome, separate and usually well spaced from flowering stem, emerging through a cylindrical sheath-like leaf, 10-30 mm long, green ovate to ovate-oblong or oblong, base cordate, apex acute to subacute; cauline leaf sessile, inserted about half-way up stem, 10-20 mm long, green, ovate to ovate-oblong, acute to subacute, base more or less cordate, occasionally shallowly notched. Flower usually solitary, rarely paired, subtended by 1-2 floral bracts. Perianth 10-20 mm diameter, external surfaces shortly and finely glandular pubescent. Sepals lanceolate, acute; dorsal sepal greenish, concave, strongly arched over column and fused to it near base; lateral sepals whitish, wide-spreading. Petals similar to sepals. Labellum much shorter and more or less obscured by overhanging dorsal sepal, shortly clawed, semi-erect; disc broad-oblong, mid-lobe narrow and recurved, bearing transverse red to maroon stripes, calli shortly stipitate, spheroidal, yellow, aligned in 2-4 longitudinal rows, extending inwards from broader part of mid-lobe. Column elongate, curved, winged throughout, the wings, membranous, upturned and more or less dentate-lobed above anther, reddish inside pale outside. Anther terminal incurved, pollinia mealy; stigma prominent, rostellum 2-lobed

### Flowering:

October - March

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1980).

### 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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1474](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1474)



**Caption:** Mt Arthur, January  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth