



## *Pterostylis alobula*

### Common Name(s):

greenhood

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Three Kings, Poor Knights, North, South and Chatham Islands. In the South Island found in the east as far south as South Canterbury and the lower Waitaki Valley, and in the west as far south as Cape Foulwind.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 1100 m a.s.l.). Usually on the forest floor in sparse leaf litter, open clay pans under scrub or amongst mosses in semi-shaded successional forest. Occasional invades rough pasture and lawns bordering forest remnants. Often growing with *Diplodium trullifolium* (Hook.f.) D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

### Features\*:

Terrestrial, colony forming, perennial herb. Plants at flowering up to 150 mm tall. Stem green or reddish-green, slender, terete, smooth; internodes rarely > leaves. Petiolate leaves in separate loose rosette or more or less loosely spaced up the lower part of flowering stem; petiole up to 10 mm long, initially distinct soon merging into leaf lamina on lower cauline leaves; leaf lamina 5-15 x 4-15 mm, dark green or green, broad-ovate, orbicular-cordate to trowel-shaped, apex acute to subacute, upper leaf surface smooth. Cauline leaves 2-6, mostly all sessile, 5-25 x 3-6 mm, dark green to green, linear to narrow-lanceolate or narrow-elliptic, uppermost slightly overtopping ovary. Flower 1(-2) erect, pale green and white striped. Dorsal sepal 20-25 mm tall, apex acuminate, usually horizontal; lateral sepals diverging at a wide angle to form a V shape when viewed from the front, sinus smoothly rounded and not jugate in side view, tips long-caudate and much overtopping galea. Petals almost as long as dorsal sepal, with the exposed marginal strip of medium width, and often nearly horizontal. Labellum arched and protruding, basal portion lanceolate, gradually tapering to mid-length, then abruptly contracted; margins recurved such that distal third is linear in outline and deeply channelled beneath, apex bluntly truncate. Column shorter than labellum; stigma elliptic, slightly prominent.

### Flowering:

March to November

### Fruiting:

May - January

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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

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

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

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=1792](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1792)



**Caption:** Stokes Valley. Jul 2001.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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