



Pterostylis puberula

Common Name(s):

dwarf greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic. Three Kings Islands, North Island from Te Pahi to Hamilton Basin (Waikato) and southern Coromandel Peninsula, thence disjunct to Wellington (Taita Hills and near Eastbourne); South Island, North West Nelson, near Westhaven. Since 1990 it has been reported only from Great Island in the Three Kings, on the Surville Cliffs (Te Pahi) and from the Kauaeranga Valley, near Thames.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland on clay banks beneath light scrub (especially kahikatoa *Leptospermum scoparium*) and gumland.

Features*:

Slender orchid up to 200 mm tall, stem and foliage often somewhat chlorotic. Stem pale silvery-green to pale yellow-green, covered in minute, harsh tubercles, distinctly though irregularly, puberulent. Rosette leaves, numerous, appressed; petiole distinctly though narrowly winged, 5-7 mm long; lamina 7 x 5 mm, silvery-green to pale yellow-green, ovate, acute. Cauline leaves, sparse, similar, sheathing. Flower solitary, silvery-white, striped green to pale green, set well above nearest bract. Dorsal sepal 10-15 mm, erect for 2/3 of length, then almost horizontal, apex obtuse to shortly acute; lateral sepals fused, diverging widely, U-shaped in front view, then sharply contracted into long, slender, erect, filamentous caudae, these slightly clavate toward apex; caudae set well above galea. Petals = or longer than dorsal sepal, subacute. Labellum oblong. Column longer than labellum; stigma long-oval, prominent.

Flowering:

September – December

Fruiting:

September – January

Threats:

Habitat loss and degradation through weed encroachment, natural regeneration of forest species, and pig rooting are the main threats. Also, over-collection by botanists and orchid enthusiasts has occurred in the past.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description based on de Lange et al. (2007).

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.; Rolfe, J. St George, I. Sawyer J. 2007: Wild orchids of the lower North Island. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 194pp.

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.

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=22



Caption: Te Pahi. Oct 2009.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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