



Pterostylis tanypoda

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, east of the main divide from Marlborough to Southland.

Habitat:

montane to subalpine, usually in intermontane basins, on river terraces or on low relief foothills, amongst tussock grasses, in grey scrub or in shingle. Sometimes found in grassland dominated by exotic species.

Features*:

Somewhat fleshy, glaucescent, inconspicuous orchid 20-100 mm tall when flowering. Stem fleshy, hidden by numerous leafy bracts. Rosette leaves numerous, 5-15 x 5-12 mm; bluish-green to glaucous (rarely yellow-green), ovate, leaf tapering gradually to a broadly winged petiole; cauline leaves similar but smaller. Inflorescence a compact raceme of 1-7 flowers, each partially enclosed within a sheathing floral bract; perianth bluish-green with pale stripes. Dorsal sepal 5-10 mm, broad, apiculate; lateral sepals slightly shorter, almost completely fused into a flat lamina; this apically bidentate, and strongly deflexed in fully opened flower. Petals just shorter than dorsal sepal, the anterior margin smooth. Labellum short, broad, obtuse, prolonged backwards into a smoothly rounded appendage surmounted by a thick, rather prominent, forward jutting median knob. Column short, broad; wings broader than long, ciliate over most of their free margins; stigma oblong.

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

November - April

Threats:

An apparently naturally uncommon biologically sparse species. However, its preferred habitat of open, short tussock grassland has been extensively modified and it very probably has declined in the past. The problem is one cannot quantify this. Furthermore, this species is easily overlooked and so its exact distribution and abundance remains unclear.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - as *Pterostylis tanypodus*

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.; Molloy, B. P. J.; Clements, M. A. 1997: Six new species of *Pterostylis* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12(6): 266-281.

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.

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=269



Caption: Young plants



Caption: *Hymenochilus tanypodus*
Photographer: Eric Scanlen