



## *Pterostylis silvicultrix*

### Common Name(s):

tutukiwi, Chatham Island greenhood

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic to the Chatham Islands where it present on Chatham (Rekohu) Pitt, Mangere and South East Islands.

### Habitat:

A widespread species of forests, restiad bog and stream, lake, pond and other wetland margins. Often found as a low epiphyte on tree fern trunks.

### Features\*:

Terrestrial tuberous orchid growing in colonies, sometimes found as a low epiphyte perching on the bases of tree fern trunks. Plants dimorphic, sterile plants 20-150 mm tall; leaves 30-80 x 10-20 mm, light green, elliptical to elliptical-lanceolate, margins entire or rarely minutely sinuate; flowering plants with 3-6 cauline leaves obliquely erect to spreading; lamina 40-150 x 0.6-2.2 mm, elliptical to elliptical-ovate to lanceolate, sessile, sheathing at base; margins entire; apex acute to acuminate. Pedicel 5-30 mm long, stout.

Ovary 10-15 mm long, asymmetric, ribbed. Flower solitary, 18-25 mm long, erect, translucent white and green with red brown suffusions toward the tips of the galea and lateral sepals; galea erect and gibbous at base, then curving forwards to the apex; dorsal sepal slightly longer than the petals, 20-25 x 10-16 mm

ovate-lanceolate, expanded in proximal third then narrowed and tapered to the acute apex. Lateral sepals erect, loosely embracing the galea leaving a narrow lateral gap to the petal margins, upper part of sinus curved when viewed from the side, sloping to a broad V when viewed from the front; conjoined part 10-15 mm long, 8-10 mm at the tope, narrowed to 3 mm wide at the base, the margins inrolled, tapered towards the free points; free points 8-10 mm long curved forwards, tips equal to or protruding slightly above the galea (often curled forward). Petals 25-30 x 4-6 mm, obliquely oblong-lanceolate, falcate, acute, green with a narrow white central area towards the base, the apex reddish-brown; flange vestigial. Labellum erect, curved forward distally, the apex prominent through the sinus in the set position; labellum hinge ligulate 3 x 1 mm; lamina 12-14 mm, green narrow-obovate, callus 0.5-0.7 mm reddish green, raised; appendage 2 mm, decurved, apex penicillate. Column 15 mm, green and white, column foot 4 mm, wings 7 mm; basal lobes 3 x 1 mm, apex obtuse, inner margins incurved, sparsely ciliate; mid-section 3 mm, green; apical lobe 1 mm. Stigma 5 x 1.5-2 mm, elliptic scutiform, medial on the column to edges, raised. Rostellum 0.5 mm diameter, brownish, below anther and high up above stigma and connected to it by a narrow groove. Capsule 25-30 x 6-8 mm, initially green to brown, narrowly obovoid, peduncle up to 50 mm long.

### Flowering:

November - December

### Fruiting:

Late summer

### Threats:

Although very common in suitable habitat it cannot be denied that forest clearance has decreased the available habitat for this species. Cattle, sheep, pigs and weka browse, trample and - weka especially - uproot the tubers.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description and recognition notes are based on information and details kindly provided by Dr B.P.J. Molloy supplemented with observations made from fresh material collected from the Chatham Islands.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=649](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=649)



**Caption:** Tuku, Chatham Islands

**Photographer:** John Sawyer



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