



Pterostylis nutans

Common Name(s):

Nodding Greenhood Orchid

Current Threat Status (2012):

Non Resident Native - Vagrant

Distribution:

Indigenous. recorded three times, originally from Pukemiro Hill near Kaitaia (between 1914 and 1920), from Castor Bay, Whangaparaoa Peninsula (1942) and most recently from Waihaha, Hauhangaroa Range in 1995

Habitat:

In New Zealand this species has been found growing in coastal shrublands, open clay ground and in dense Podocarp forest on the margin of a walking track. In Australia is it widespread in a variety of early successional to climax community habitats.

Features*:

Terrestrial orchid forming colonies. Plants up to 300 mm tall. Stem internodes equal to or much larger than bracts. Rosette leaves 5-10 or more; petiole conspicuous, narrowly winged; leaf lamina 15-30 x 10-20 mm, light green to dark green, oblong-ovate, acute to subacute, margins unundulating or finely crenate; cauline leaves 1-3, sheathing, bract-like. Flower solitary, usually close to but sometimes remote from subtending bract; top of stem and ovary strongly arched over so that flower faces downwards or even incurves toward stem. Dorsal sepal 25 mm tall, rounded, apex acute, lateral sepals very shortly connate, diverging at narrow angle, apices acuminate and hardly overtopping galea, surface minutely rugulose. Petals more or less equal to dorsal sepal, acute. Labellum irritable, narrow-triangular, strongly arched, protruding, apex subacute, margins slight incurved, finely covered in bristly hairs. Column much shorter than labellum; stigma elliptic.

Flowering:

July - October

Fruiting:

September - February

Threats:

Both Kaitaia and Castor Bay populations were probably wiped out by botanists (certainly the Kaitaia population was collected from repeatedly until there were no plants left). However, this species is insect-pollinated, and the insect vectors responsible for successful pollination are not present in New Zealand. It is for this reason that it is listed as a vagrant, for without Human intervention it would be unlikely to form and set viable seed.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=719



Caption: *Pterostylis nutans* plant in flower

Photographer: Ian St George, near Waihaha, Hauhangaroa Range



Caption: *Pterostylis nutans* - H.B. Matthews collections near Kaitaia in the early 1900s

Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, January 1989