



## *Pterostylis auriculata*

### Common Name(s):

Greenhood

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. In the North Island recorded so far from Kapiti Island. In the South Island known from south-east Otago (Catlins Coast) and Southland. Recorded in November 2008 from one site on Rangiauria (Pitt Island) in the Chatham Islands group

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane.(up to 521 m a.s.l. on Kapiti Island). Favouring permanently damp, heavily shaded, sites in dune forest in the Catlins, south-eastern South Island, and under dense kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) and mapou (*Myrsine australis*) on Kapiti Island. On the Chatham Islands it grows with *Pterostylis banksii* and *P. silvicultrix* in mixed matipo (*Myrsine chathamica*), Ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius* subsp. *chathamicus*), Tarahinau (*Dracophyllum arboreum*) forest.

### Features\*:

Terrestrial, glabrous, tuberous summer-green perennial. Plant erect, all parts distinctly glossy, up to 380 mm tall. Stems bright-red to reddish green. Leaves 4, all cauline, of more or less equal length, usually overtopping the galea, 125-180 x 10-12 mm, pale-green to dark green, lanceolate, distinctly acuminate, arching with apices drooping, widest near sessile sheathing base, midrib prominent, reddish. Flower solitary, narrowly erect, green with a reddish tint. Ovary slender, 10 mm long, reddish, linear-ellipsoid. Dorsal sepal 15-18 mm long, narrowly ovate, shortly acuminate, lateral sepals erect, narrowly divergent, sinus large, apices caudate, 8-9 mm long, overtopping galea, spreading, narrow and more or less falcate caudae. Petals narrowly ovate, shortly acuminate. Labellum 10 x 2.3-4.6 mm, dark-red, linear-oblong, distinctly arched and tapering toward the truncate or slightly retuse to emarginate apex, midrib prominent, keeled below, deeply depressed above, somewhat twisted, with 4 flexuous lateral veins on each side; basal callus wide, shortly curved, and coarsely fimbriate. Column slender about as long as labellum, wings prolonged upwards as subulate apices nearly 2.3 mm long, narrow auriculate; auricles 4.5 mm long, with the apices closely and finely ciliate.

### Flowering:

October - November

### Fruiting:

December

### Threats:

Seemingly uncommon and probably biologically sparse, but known habitats are in protected areas.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description modified from Colenso (1889) supplemented with observations made from fresh material (Kapiti and Chatham Islands)

### References and further reading:

Colenso, W. 1889: A description of some newly-discovered phaenogamic plants being a further contribution toward making-known the botany of New Zealand. *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 22: 459-493.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=772](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=772)



**Caption:** *Pterostylis auriculata*  
**Photographer:** Ian St George



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