



Pterostylis porrecta

Common Name(s):

Shrimp-flowered Greenhood

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands.

Habitat:

Lowland to montane. Usually in deeply shaded, damp scrub and light forest. Also on ultramafic rock.

Features*:

Terrestrial tuberous herb growing in diffuse colonies. Sterile plants 20-50 mm tall, 3-4-leaved; leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, 40-70 x 4-6 mm, dark green, margins entire, apex acute to acuminate. Flowering plants 60-200 mm tall. Leaves 4-5, cauline, obliquely erect to spreading, sometimes arcuate; lamina linear-lanceolate, 45-120 x 4-6 mm, sessile, sheathing at the base; margins entire; apex acute to acuminate. Pedicel 10 mm long, slender. Ovary narrowly ellipsoid, 7-10 mm long, yellow-green, ribbed. Flower solitary, 18-22 mm long, semi-nodding, translucent white and pale green, darker towards the tip of the galea, the points of the sepals pale pink; galea shallowly gibbous at the base then leaning forwards before decurving in a shallow curve to the apex, the dorsal sepal much longer than the petals. Dorsal sepal ovate-lanceolate in outline when flattened, 19-22 x 9-11 mm, prominently expanded in the proximal third then gradually tapered to the acuminate apex. Lateral sepals obliquely erect top nearly horizontal, held well away from the galea, leaving a very wide lateral gap to the marginal petals; most of the labellum visible from the side through this gap; upper part of sinus flat when viewed from the side, sloping to a broad v when viewed from the front; internally the sinus projecting inwards as a small platform-like structure; conjoined part 7-9 x 5-6 mm wide at the top, narrowed to 1.6 mm wide at the base, the margins inrolled towards the apex and tapered into the free points, the free points 13-15 mm long, narrowly tapered to an attenuate apex, curved forwards, the tips often shallowly curved. Petals oblong-lanceolate, 16-19 x 3.0-3.5 mm, nearly straight, acute to acuminate, green with a white central area and two or three green stripes; flange vestigial. Labellum obliquely erect, shallowly curved forwards distally, the apex not protruding through the sinus in the set position; labellum hinge ligulate, 3 x 1 mm; lamina oblong, 8.0-9.0 x 2.3-2.5 mm, green to brownish green with a darker green central callus, apex obtuse, pinkish; callus 0.5 mm wide near the apex, raised; basal appendage 2.6-3.0 mm long, decurved. apex penicillate. Column 10-12 mm long, bent away from the ovary at about 50 degrees at the base then obliquely erect, green and white; column foot 3 mm long. Column-wings 4.5-5.0 mm long; basal lobe 2.0 x 0.7 mm, at an angle of 40 degrees. apex broadly obtuse, inner margins incurved. sparsely ciliate; mid-section 1.5 mm long, green; apical lobe 0.8 mm long, obtuse. Anther 1 mm long, shortly rostrate. Pollinia linear-clavate, 1.0-1.2 mm long, yellow, mealy. Stigma narrowly scutiform, 5.0-5.5 x 1.0-1.4 mm, situated just below column-wings raised. Capsule subcylindrical to broadly ellipsoid, 8-14 x 4-6 mm, initially yellow-green maturing grey.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

January - March

Threats:

A biologically sparse species, known from widely scattered sites. It is possibly threatened by plant collectors.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description based on Jones et al. (1997).

References and further reading:

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: 266-281.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=774



Caption: Eastern Wairarapa.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: *Pterostylis porrecta*

Photographer: Ian St George