



Waireia stenopetala

Common Name(s):

Yellow Beaks, Beak Orchid, Horizontal Orchid,

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart, Auckland and Campbell Islands. In the North Island known only from the eastern slopes of Mt Ruapehu and from the Tararua Range.

Habitat:

Wet, peaty places at higher altitudes in the north, down to sea level in the south.

Features*:

Summer-green, leafy, glabrous, tuberous, perennial herb. Tubers paired or in threes, globose to conical. Plant at flower up to 400 mm tall, plant sharply elongating at fruiting. All parts fleshy. Stem erect, terete. Leaves (1-)2(-3), widely spaced and reducing in size up stem, basal leaf 80-150 x 15-20 mm, dark green, narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, concave, apex acute, dark green to bronze green, rarely flecked brown. Floral bracts closely sheathing and overtopping ovary, leaf-like, colour as for leaves. Flowers (1-)3(-6) in short racemes, inclined away from bracts. Perianth 10-20 mm long, yellow-green, or green, usually spotted red-brown. Sepals acute; dorsal sepal rather broadly ovate, cucullate, deeply concave, arching over and obscuring most of the rest of the flower; lateral sepals smaller, yellow-green or green, linear, sharply deflexed. Petals slightly shorter again, yellow-green or green, linear-lanceolate, subacute, deflexed or patent. Labellum erect, broad-ovate, narrowed abruptly to a short fixed claw; margin entire, callose ridges present and extending toward labellum apex. Column elongate-cylindric, curved, wing very narrow, finely lobed about anther. Anther terminal, papillose, with two initially coherent, pollinia per cell, finely granular. Stigma prominent, discoid; rostellum median.

Flowering:

November - March

Fruiting:

January - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1997).

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=797



Caption: Silverpeaks
Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Auckland Island
Photographer: Jane Gosden