Pterostylis areolata

COMMON NAME
greenhood

SYNONYMS
None

FAMILY
Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY
Pterostylis areolata Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Orchids

NVS CODE
PTEARE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 │ Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2012 │ Not Threatened
2009 │ Not Threatened
2004 │ Not Threatened

Mount Cass. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Habit. Photographer: Geoffrey M. Rogers, Date taken: 11/12/2015, Licence: CC BY-SA.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Tararua Ranges and possibly the Ruahines), South Island (widespread, mainly east of the main divide but also in Nelson and Fiordland).

HABITAT
Lowland to subalpine. In short or tall tussock grassland, grey scrub, on the margins of wetlands and in open forest.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, either solitary in forming small patches of 3–8 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 70–250 mm tall. **Stem** erect, smooth, dark green to reddish green, internodes < leaves. **Leaves** 2–4, with entire margins, shape changing from base to top of stem; lamina 30–90 × 10–25 mm, dark green to yellow-green, the lowest and those of non-flowering plants, broadly elliptic, elliptic, to obovate, apex obtuse to subacute, tapering to a reddish-green broadly winged petiole; uppermost leaves shorter, acute to acuminate; not overtopping the flower. **Flower** solitary, tipping forwards, large, dark green, green striped with white toward the back of the galea. **Ovary** erect. **Dorsal sepal** 30–35 mm tall, mostly erect then sharply horizontal to deflexed, apex shortly acuminate without caudae. **Lateral sepals** diverging at a narrow angle, apices acuminate to shortly caudate, rarely exceeding galea, usually narrowly spreading, decurved. **Petals** slightly shorter than dorsal sepal, very broad, apex acute. **Labellum** basally red, apex often distinctly darker; lamina elliptic, slightly arched, toward a narrowly obtuse, flat or pinched in apex. **Column** mostly taller than labellum; stigma elongate-ovate with a prominent truncate apex.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *P. australis* Hook.f. from which it differs by the fewer, consistently wider elliptic to obovate leaves which do not overtop the galea (rather than leaves which grade from the elliptic (rarely broadly elliptic) to almost linear-lanceolate and may or may not overtop the flower); and by the acuminate, only slightly caudate lateral sepals, and elongate-ovate uniformly red stigma. Unlike some southern populations of *P. australis*, the leaves of *P. areolata* are never finely denticulate.

FLOWERING

October–November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

November–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild. Basic orchid mix consists of 2 parts medium coarse sand, ideally clean river sand; 2 parts soil, humus or leaf-mould; 1 part weathered sawdust or rotting wood; 1 part granulated bark. For *Pterostylis* shade of 50% and pots kept evenly moist.

ETYMOLOGY

pterostylis: Winged column
areolata: Netted, with a network pattern between the veins

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

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 LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-areolata/