

Pterostylis auriculata

COMMON NAME

greenhood

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis auriculata Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PTEAUR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Kapiti Island), South Island (south-east Otago (Catlins Coast) and Southland), Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands (recorded in November 2008 from one site on Rangihaute / Rangiauria / Pitt Island).

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 (*Pterophylla racemosa*) and māpou (*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.



Flower smaller, narrower; galea not minutely papillose; sepals shorter than southern specimens. Kapiti Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 26/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Flower smaller, narrower; galea not minutely papillose; sepals shorter than southern specimens. Kapiti Island. Photographer: Jeremy

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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 × 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 × 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.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to native orchids of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Pterostylis banksii has narrow, more upright leaves and larger flowers; *P. australis* has short sepals and broad upright leaves; both lack the tapered labellum. The various forms included in *P. montana* are smaller plants, with oblong apically twisted labella. Distinguished from *P. silvicultrix* by longer, narrower, arching leaves; longer dorsal and lateral sepals; lateral sepals which are not twisted or turned forwards, and straight rather than twisted labellum.

FLOWERING

October–November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

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

ETYMOLOGY

pterostylis: Winged column

auriculata: Small-eared

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-auriculata/>