

# Pterostylis foliata

## COMMON NAME

grassland greenhood

## SYNONYMS

*Pterostylis gracilis* Nicholls, *Pterostylis vereenae* R.S.Rogers

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pterostylis foliata* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

## NVS CODE

PTEFOL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44-46

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island. Also Australia

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 800 m a.s.l.) in grassland, amongst low scrub, within open forest and within plantation forest. Often found growing with the adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum coriaceum* A.Cunn.).




Palliser Bay. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/10/1994, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, either solitary or forming small colonies of 3–6 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 150–400 mm tall. **Stem** stiffly erect, smooth or sparsely and unevenly puberulent, dark green to yellow green; usually elongating following fruit set; upper internodes usually longer than stem leaves. **Basal leaves** 2–4, yellow-green to dark green, sessile, arranged in a more or less loose to crowded rosette; lamina up to 80 × 25 mm, elliptic, margins smooth, crisped or undulose, apex subacute, gradually narrowed into a short, winged petiole. **Cauline leaves** 1–2, yellow-green to green, 20–30 mm long, more or less foliaceous, closely sheathing, uppermost sometimes reaching but scarcely overtopping flower. **Flower** solitary, erect, white with broad green to greenish-brown stripes, often brown toward the apex. **Ovary** erect, papillose. **Dorsal sepal** 20–30 × 20 mm long, erect for  of length then curving forwards, apex acute and more or less horizontal, extending no further than petals. **Lateral sepals** closely embracing galea, papillose on the fused portion, sinus narrow, not protruding, diverging at a narrow angle, tips caudate up to 18 mm long and overtopping galea. **Petals** only a littler shorter than dorsal sepal, broad almost to apex. **Labellum** dark green above and paler beneath, protruding, narrow-triangular, arched, tapering to a narrowly obtuse apex, margins slightly upturned. **Column** shorter than labellum; stigma elliptic, more or less prominent.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

## SIMILAR TAXA

None. The yellow-green to dark green plants, with their stiffly erect stems bearing closely sheathing bract like leaves; basal leaves which are arranged in a loose rosette, and usually with crisped or wavy margins; and small, erect brownish flowers readily distinguish this species from all other indigenous *Pterostylis* species.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

## FRUITING

December–April

## 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

**foliata**: Leafy

## 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-foliata/>