

Pterostylis irsoniana

COMMON NAME

greenhood

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1950)

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis irsoniana Hatch

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PTEIRS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, summer-green, tuberous perennial herb. Plants solitary or in colonies, up to 350 mm tall when flowering. Stem stout, erect, terete, smooth.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from East Cape South to Wellington), South Island (mainly in the West to about Haast).

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine (montane to subalpine in the northern part of range) up to 1200 m a.s.l. In beech (*Nothofagaceae*) forest, podocarp forest, frost flats and subalpine scrub. Often in deep drifts of leaf litter or on the margins of sphagnum bogs.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



Pterostylis irsoniana. Photographer: Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.

SIMILAR TAXA

The distinctive curled labellum with an deeply emarginate tip (like a drainers scoop), and prominent dark medial basal callus facing the column are key distinctions that separate this species for all other *Pterostylis* in New Zealand. The flowers are usually dark green tinged with red.

FLOWERING

October–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild. asic 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

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-irsoniana/>