

# Pterostylis tanypoda

## SYNONYMS

Hymenochilus tanypodus (D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A. Clem.) D.L.Jones, M.A.Clem. et Molloy

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

Pterostylis tanypoda D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

## NVS CODE

HYMTAN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 54

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP, EF

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (east of the main divide from Marlborough to Southland).

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine, usually in intermontane basins, on river terraces or on low relief foothills, amongst tussock grasses, in grey scrub or in shingle. Sometimes found in grassland dominated by exotic species.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Somewhat fleshy, glaucescent, inconspicuous orchid 20–100 mm tall when flowering. **Stem** fleshy, hidden by numerous leafy bracts. **Rosette leaves** numerous, 5–15 × 5–12 mm; bluish-green to glaucous (rarely yellow-green), ovate, leaf tapering gradually to a broadly winged petiole; cauline leaves similar but smaller. **Inflorescence** a compact raceme of 1–7 flowers, each partially enclosed within a sheathing floral bract; perianth bluish-green with pale stripes. **Dorsal sepal** 5–10 mm, broad, apiculate. **Lateral sepals** slightly shorter, almost completely fused into a flat lamina; this apically bidentate, and strongly deflexed in fully opened flower. **Petals** just shorter than dorsal sepal, the anterior margin smooth. **Labellum** short, broad, obtuse, prolonged backwards into a smoothly rounded appendage surmounted by a thick, rather prominent, forward jutting median knob. **Column** short, broad; wings broader than long, ciliate over most of their free margins; stigma oblong.



MacKenzie Pass in November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hymenochilus tanypodus. Photographer: Eric Scanlen, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

### Key to native orchids of New Zealand

#### SIMILAR TAXA

Could only be confused with *P. tristis* Colenso from which it differs in its glaucescent rather than brownish-green foliage and blue-green to green rather than brownish-green flowers. In *P. tristis* the labellum base possesses a backward projecting decurved appendage, while in *P. tanypoda* the labellum is even more strongly deflexed and it is always surmounted with a prominent, smooth forward-pointing knob. While *P. tristis* can occasionally be glaucescent, *P. tanypoda* is never brown-green. The two species may grow together.

#### FLOWERING

October–January

#### FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Green

#### FRUITING

November–April

#### LIFE CYCLE

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

#### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

#### THREATS

An apparently naturally uncommon biologically sparse species. However, its preferred habitat of open, short tussock grassland has been extensively modified and it very probably has declined in the past. The problem is one cannot quantify this. Furthermore, this species is easily overlooked and so its exact distribution and abundance remains unclear.

#### ETYMOLOGY

**pterostylis:** Winged column

#### TAXANOMIC NOTES

Jane et al. (2010) following a thorough rDNA (ITS) based analysis of the segregate genera erected for *Pterostylis* R.Br. by Szlachekto (2001) and Jones et al. (2002) found no support to continue their recognition. This view is followed here.

#### ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - as *Pterostylis tanypodus*

#### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Janes JK, Duretto MF. 2010. A new classification for subtribe Pterostylidinae (Orchidaceae), reaffirming *Pterostylis* in the broad sense. *Australian Systematic Botany* 23: 260–269. <https://doi.org/10.1071/SB09052>.

Jones DL, Molloy BPJ, Clements MA. 1997. Six new species of *Pterostylis* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 266–281.

Jones DL, Clements MA, Molloy BPJ. 2002. A Synopsis of the Subtribe *Pterostylidinae*. *Australian Orchid Research* 4: 129–146.

Szlachekto, D.L. 2001: Genera et Species Orchidaliium 1. *Polish Botanical Journal* 46(1): 11–26.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

#### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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#### MORE INFORMATION

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