

Pterostylis venosa

COMMON NAME

greenhood

SYNONYMS

Pterostylis confertifolia Allan, *Pterostylis trifolia* Colenso

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis venosa Col.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PTEVEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Mostly montane extending to lowlands in the southern part of its range. Usually in beech (*Nothofagaceae*) forest where it often grows in deep, damp drifts of moss or leaf litter in heavy shade or well lighted situations.



Ngatoro Walk, North Egmont, 9/11/97.
Photographer: Eric Scanlen, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Southern Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, forming small patches of 3–many plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering (30)–50–100 mm tall. **Stem** erect, smooth, dark green, to reddish green, usually immersed within a loose basal rosette of leaves until the fruiting ovary elongates the stem. **Leaves** erect to somewhat spreading, 2–4, margins entire, though usually undulose in the basal $\frac{1}{3}$, overtopping or at least equally the flower; lamina 30–60 × 10–25 mm, dark green to yellow green, broadly oval, rarely orbicular, apex obtuse to broadly subacute, base gradually narrowing into a broadly winged sheathing petiole. **Flower** solitary, erect, dark green to yellow green, white striped. **Ovary** mostly erect. **Dorsal sepal** 15 mm tall, erect then horizontal; apex acute to very shortly acuminate. **Lateral sepals** diverging at a narrow angle, initially erect, apex acuminate to shortly caudate, scarcely overtopping galea. **Petals** almost as long as dorsal sepal, broad almost to apex. **Labellum** narrowly triangular, arcuate, protruding. apex subacute, inner surface copiously invested with short retrorse hairs imparting a furry appearance. **Column** shorter than labellum; stigma narrow elliptic, not upturned.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *P. humilis* from which it differs by the very narrow stigma which is not upturned or prominently heart-shaped, and by the abundant short retrorse hairs on the labellum surface.

FLOWERING

October–February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

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

venosa: Veined

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-venosa/>