

Caladenia chlorostyla

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Solitary, hirsute, terrestrial, tuberous herb. **Leaf** semi-erect, 50–150 × 1–3 mm, bright green, narrowly linear, sparsely glandular pubescent.

Flowering scape, slender, wiry, 10–300 mm tall, green, glandular-pubescent. **Sterile bracts** spreading widely, 6.0–11.0 × 1.0–2.5 mm, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, externally glandular-pubescent; fertile bracts closely sheathing, 3–8 × 2–3 mm, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, externally glandular pubescent. **Ovary**, 6–10 mm long, narrowly ellipsoid, green, glandular-pubescent. **Flower** unscented, 1–(5), 11–16 mm diameter, externally greenish-white, internally pale greenish-white, white, pale mauve or pinkish. **Tepals** externally sparsely glandular; dorsal sepal erect and incurved; lateral sepals porrect, remaining closely parallel, or with proximal margins overlapping or fused. **Petals** widely spreading or incurved. **Dorsal sepal** 6.0–8.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, narrowly obovate, obtuse. **Lateral sepals** 6.0–8.0 × 2.0–2.5 mm, narrowly obovate, oblanceolate, asymmetric, subacute. **Petals** 6.0–8.0 × 2.0–2.5 mm, oblanceolate, falcate, subacute, apiculate. **Labellum** greenish-white, white or pinkish with prominent dark red transverse bars articulated on a short 0.4 × 0.8 mm claw, trilobed; lamina ovate in outline when flattened, 5.0–6.0 × 4.5 mm, erect in proximal half, decurved in distal half, apex decurved or straight; lateral lobes 1.8 mm wide, erect and column-embracing, entire; mid-lobe 2.5 mm long, narrowly deltoid; cream to pale yellow, with 6–10 pairs of flat to linear marginal calli to 0.8 mm long, these decrescent and irregular towards apex, calli stipitate, pale yellow often with red stalks, in 2 rows extending onto the base of the mid-lobe; basal calli 4, darker than the rest; head oblong-ovoid, c. 0.5–0.7 mm diameter, papillate. **Column** 5.0–6.0 × 2.3 mm, green with dark red transverse bars, shallowly incurved, narrowly winged; central anterior ridge 0.8–1.0 mm wide.

Anther c. 1.3–1.5 × 1.2–1.5 mm, green, papillate, with a short rostrum.

Pollinia 4, 0.8–1.0 mm long, curved to flat, white or green, mealy, incoherent. **Stigma** semi-circular, 1 mm diameter sunken. **Capsule** erect, 10.0–12.0 × 2.5–3.5 mm long, ellipsoid to ovoid-ellipsoid, green often with purple stripes.

SIMILAR TAXA

See recognition sections for *Caladenia nothofageti* and *C. variegata*. *Caladenia chlorostyla* has been much confused with *C. minor* from which it is said to differ by the patent rather than stem clasping middle foliaceous bract of the flowering scape, mostly pink rather than greenish flowers, and by the clavate rather than capitate-globular lamina calli. *Caladenia minor* appears to be confined to the northern one-third of the North Island. However, it is a poorly understood species whose relationships to *C. chlorostyla* and *C. bartlettii* need critical evaluation.



Southern Taranui Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/11/2010, Licence: CC BY.



Southern Taranui Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/11/2010, Licence: CC BY.

DISTRIBUTION

Probably endemic. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane up to 1000 m a.s.l. in well-lighted situations in scrub, successional and mature tall indigenous forest. Also frequent in plantation forests.

GENUS

Caladenia

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Caladenia chlorostyla D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

SYNONYMS

Petalochilus chlorostylus (D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.; *Petalochilus calyciformis* R.S.Rogers, *Petalochilus saccatus* R.S.Rogers,

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Jones et al. (2001) revived the genus *Petalochilus* R.S.Rogers (erected by Rogers (1924) for what has come to be viewed as a peloric state of *Caladenia* R.Br.—see Moore & Edgar (1970)) for a distinct clade of mostly New Zealand orchids that had usually been referred to as *Caladenia*. Subsequently Hopper et al. (2004) showed how the reorganisation of *Caladenia* by Jones et al. (2001) was unworkable and they recommended a return to *Caladenia* and the other allied Australian genera that had been recognised previously. Following discussion with S. Hopper and P. Weston (pers. comm., 2011, 2014) the treatment of Hopper et al. (2004) is preferred to that of Jones et al. (2001) and so followed here.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September–January(March)

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

CALCHL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 39, 40, 41

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hopper SD, Brown AP. 2004 Robert Brown's *Caladenia* revisited, including a revision of its sister genera *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella* and *Pheladenia* (Caladeniinae: Orchidaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 17(2): 171–240.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/SB03002>.

Jones DL, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM. 2001. A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13(9): 389–419. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310770#page/1/mode/1up>.

Jones DL, Molloy BPJ, Clements MA. 1997. Three new species and a new combination in *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 221–229.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

Rogers RS. 1924. *Petalochilus*: a New Genus of New Zealand Orchids. *The Journal of Botany* 62: 65–67.

https://archive.bsbi.org/Journal_of_Botany_1924.pdf

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2007). Description partially taken from Jones et al. (1997).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/caladenia-chlorostyla/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026