

# Corunastylis nuda

## COMMON NAMES

red leek orchid

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An erect, reed/rush-like reddish green orchid up to 500 mm tall of open or sparsely vegetated shrubland. Base of plant clad in persistent, brown, somewhat fibrous sheaths of old scale-leaves; these enclosing current tuber and remnant tubers of past seasons' growth. **Stem** 1–3 mm diameter, dark green to red-green to reddish mottled, erect, rushlike, leafless almost up to inflorescence. **Leaf** very much < than inflorescence length; lamina inconspicuous, narrowly involute, shortly-sheathing.

**Inflorescence** a raceme of 5–25 closely spaced flowers. **Perianth** dark red or reddish-green, narrow, horizontal, with a distinct knee projecting upwards. **Dorsal sepal** 2.5–3 mm, deeply concave, broadly ovate with a small apiculus. **Lateral sepals** definitely longer, very shortly fused (connate) at base, deeply concave, elliptic, tipped with a small spatulate, easily detached gland-like structure. Petals shorter, membranous, hair-tipped. **Labellum** just shorter than or equal to petals, dark red (rarely reddish-green), articulate by a narrow curved claw to long column-foot; limb broadly oblong, almost auriculate at base; callii 2, longitudinal, more or less parallel, finely and closely papillose; margins distinctly though finely ciliate, cilia usually red or red-green. **Lateral processes of column** as tall as anther; apices bifid with the anterior lobe more acute and very finely ciliolate. **Anthers** on a very short filament (almost sessile), overtopping rostellum, apiculate. **Stigma** about the same height as the column base.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to *Corunastylis pumila* (Hook.f.) D.L. Jones et M.A. Clem. from which it differs by its red-green to dark green (rather than yellow-green to green) stem and leaf; much shorter leaf, horizontal rather than drooping, scarcely opening, reddish (rather than widely opening almost campanulate yellowish) flowers, and red rather than greenish labellum with finely ciliate margins.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (from about Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island) and Albany south), South Island, Chatham Islands. Also Australia.



Waingawa River valley, Tararua Range.  
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:  
12/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.

## HABITAT

A species of mainly lowland to montane areas (1–900 m a.s.l.) favouring open shrublands including pakihi sites, skeletal soils over lying rock, peat bogs, and infertile clay bank scrub and road banks. It also grows in short grassland including pastures overlying sand, clay or gley podzols that are now dominated by introduced grasses.

## THREATS

Apparently a naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. However, as with *Corunastylis pumila* much of the habitat this species favours has been destroyed over the last 100 or so years and it is quite likely that this orchid has undergone a massive range reduction. Nevertheless probably because it has always been more wide-ranging than *C. pumila*, it remains less threatened by continued development of lowland New Zealand. Despite this it is probably another species whose exact conservation status may require adjustment to take into account past habitat losses and continuing habitat modification. This is especially because much of its habitat remains unprotected and that which is, without periodic disturbance is likely to revert to taller vegetation unsuitable for this and other orchid species.

## GENUS

Corunastylis

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

Corunastylis nuda (Hook.f.) D.L. Jones et M.A. Clem.

## SYNONYMS

Genoplesium nudum (Hook.f.) D.L.Jones & M.A.Clem.; Prasophyllum nudum Hook.f.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

December–August

## FRUITING

January–November

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**nuda:** Nude or naked

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

CORNUD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013). Description adapted from: Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corunastylis-nuda/>

## PDF DATE

09 July 2026