Pterostylis alveata

COMMON NAMES
mountain greenhood

BIOSTATUS
Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Terrestrial orchid of open sites on clay or sand. Flowering plants up to 300 mm tall. **Stem** scabrid. **Rosette leaves** 3–5, 20–60 × 10–15 mm, ovate, elliptic to obovate, often rather distantly spaced on basal portion of stem, sessile, margins entire. **Upper stem leaves** rather bracteate, lanceolate, erect, and strongly stem clasping. **Flower** 30 mm long, erect, dark green striped white, apex of galea flat or slightly decurved. **Dorsal sepal** acute to subacute, with a long, fine apiculus. **Lateral sepals** erect, loosely embracing galea leaving a distinct lateral gap, sinus broadly notched when veiwed from the front, protruding prominently in an abrupt curve when viewed from the side, free points 20 mm long, linear-tapered, reflexed behind galea; petals broad, subacute. **Labellum** 13–18 × 3 mm, narrowly ovate-lanceolate to obtuse, dark brown, erect, curved forwards near middle, subacute with distal ⅓ projecting from the sinus in the set position.

SIMILAR TAXA
Vegetative plants have some similarity to *Pterostyliis alobula* (Hatch) L.B.Moore, but the rosette leaves are much larger and more distantly spaced, further the stem is distinctly—though finely—scabrid. The stem leaves of *P. alveata* are also distinctly narrowly-lanceolate, bract-like and closely stem clasping rather than broadly lanceolate, and patent to recurved as is typical of *P. alobua*. The flowers of *P. alveata* are much greener than those of *P. alobula*, and the dorsal sepal has a long, wire like apiculus which often completely obscures the erect, dark brown, narrowly ovate-lacneolate to obtuse labellum.

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (one record from Hutt Valley in February 2006), South Island (northern North-west Nelson area). Also Australia.

HABITAT
Known in New Zealand from open kānuka (*Kunzea ericoides* (A.Rich.) Joy Thomps.) shrubland where it grows on clay and sandy soils.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/02/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Cauline leaf. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.

THREATS
Possibly the target of orchid collectors. However only recently (late 1990s) discovered in New Zealand and still poorly known. A 2006 find in Wellington suggests that either this species has been overlooked or it is still expanding its range. No serious threats are known.

GENUS
Pterostylis

FAMILY
Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY
Pterostylis alveata Garnet

SYNONYMS
Diplodium alveatum (Garnet) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.

TAXONOMIC 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, in the process of being adopted by the Australian Plants Names Index, is followed here.

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
January–April

FRUITING
March–June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY
pterostylis: Winged column

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to native orchids of New Zealand

NVS CODE
PTEALV

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: DP, SO
2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO
2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO
2004 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser
Jump to current conservation status

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, Clements MA, Molloy BPJ. 2002. A Synopsis of the Subtribe *Pterostylidinae*. *Australian Orchid Research 4*: 129–146.
Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.
Szlachekto, D.L. 2001: Genera et Species Orchidalium 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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 April 2007). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)
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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-alveata/

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