

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 bractaeate, 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 viewed 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 $\frac{1}{3}$ projecting from the sinus in the set position.

SIMILAR TAXA

Vegetative plants have some similarity to *Pterostylis 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-lanceolate 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 Orchidialium 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) Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence](#).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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