

# Pterostylis cardiostigma

## 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

Stout, terrestrial, tuberous, leafy, spring to summer-green perennial herb. Plant at flowering up to 400 mm tall. **Tuber** usually 1–(2), heart-shaped supporting 4–5 thick lateral roots. **Stem** stout, thick, dark green or pinkish-green, basal portion covered by 3–4 pink to carmine sheathing bracts; internodes short. **Leaves** all cauline, 5–7, sessile, usually strictly upright, uppermost overtopping galea; lamina 80–280 × 10–20 mm, dark green, linear-lanceolate, acuminate; midrib prominent, red, slightly to deeply grooved above, 2–(3) lateral yellow veins present either side, keel prominent, usually red. **Flowers** solitary, mostly green finely striped with white, apices usually pinkish or red, erect, tall and very narrow. **Dorsal sepal** up to 70 mm long, vertical in lower half, upper half steeply inclined rarely horizontal, apex acuminate, dark red. **Lateral sepals** overtopping galea, narrowly spreading, with long filiform, red caudae. **Petals** 60–65 mm long, marginal strip long and exposed, apices red; galea width at petal apex 6 mm. **Labellum** narrow, long, triangular, arching in upper 1/3, apex acuminate; distal half red with pale retrorse hairs on the upper surface and a dark red dorsal median ridge becoming paler near base; undersides with red median groove. **Column** shorter than labellum, stigma prominent, cordate, **Ovary** erect 10–30 mm tall.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The stout growth habit, reddish stems, leaves; deeply ribbed erect leaves overtopping the flower, and the single erect, scarcely opened, tall and narrow green finely white striped, pinkish flower are distinctive of this species. If the flower is prised open the distinctive rather prominent, heart-shaped stigma is especially diagnostic. This species is most often confused with *Pterostylis banksii* with which it often grows, and with which it is usually confused, appearing rather deceptively as a plant with an emergent, as yet unopened flower.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. In indigenous or exotic forests and shrubland. Found in similar habitats to that frequented by *P. banksii* (with which it often grows). This species usually occurs as single plants or as widely spaced colonies of 4–6 plants.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 01/11/2013, Licence: CC BY.

## GENUS

Pterostylis

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

Pterostylis cardiostigma D.Cooper

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1983)

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

December–March

## 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.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ETYMOLOGY

**pterostylis**: Winged column

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

PTECAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## 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 Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, 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.](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Cooper DA. 1983. *Pterostylis cardiostigma*—a new species of Orchidaceae from Wellington, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 21(1): 97–100. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0028825X.1983.10428528>.
- Hatch ED. 1990. *Pterostylis cardiostigma* D.Cooper a new record for the Waitakeres. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 45: 18.
- Young M. 1991. The northward march of *Pterostylis cardiostigma* D.Cooper. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 46: 22–24.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description modified from Cooper (1983).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-cardiostigma/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026