

Pterostylis montana

COMMON NAME

greenhood

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis montana Hatch

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PTEMON

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44, (43), 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands. Exact distribution unclear as this is a species complex

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine (up to 1200 m a.s.l.) in a wide range of habitats from dense forest to restiad peat bogs. An extremely variable species which probably comprises several as yet unnamed entities. Until these are teased out the exact ecological preferences of *P. montana* s.s. are difficult to describe.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, either solitary or forming small patches of 3–10 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 30–350 mm tall. Stem erect, smooth, dark green, bronze-green to reddish green, internodes.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



Pterostylis montana. Photographer: Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.



Southern Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/12/2008, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

At least seven distinct forms are currently known as *P. montana*; these are all unified by the slightly arched, broadly oblong, stout labellum whose apex is mostly subacute, constricted and conspicuously twisted to the right (when viewed from the front). The stigma also tends to be broadly to narrowly cordate (heart-shaped) and prominent, the lateral sepals rather shortly erect with the apices often twisted or recurved, and the leaves of flowering plants mostly linear-lanceolate. Some forms seem to grade into *P. banksii* A.Cunn. or *P. australis* Hook.f. Further taxonomic study is needed.

FLOWERING

September–December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

November–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.

ETYMOLOGY

pterostylis: Winged column

montana: From the Latin mons 'mountain', meaning growing on mountains

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The type is a unicate collected from Stewart Island/Rakiura. The description for that plant though adequate for its time now covers a wide range of entities and it is not clear to which of these the type now refers (there are at least two entities on Stewart Island). Here NZPCN offer a broad treatment for *P. montana* recognising that it is a species complex and that further work will undoubtedly recognise possibly as many as five species within the current circumscription of *P. montana* Hatch.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pterostylis montana* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-montana/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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