

Pterostylis oliveri

COMMON NAMES

Oliver's greenhood

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

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, mostly solitary or forming small patches of 3–5 plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering 100–380 mm tall. **Stem** more or less erect to decumbent, smooth, yellow green to green, internodes mostly shorter than leaves, sometimes very short near base. **Leaves** 4–6, spreading, margins entire, size changing from base to top of stem; lamina of lower leaves 50–100 × 20–30 mm, oval to broadly elliptic or narrowly obovate, apex obtuse, narrowing to a broadly winged, mostly short petiole; upper leaves progressively more acute, the uppermost little shorter but sessile, ovate, sometimes almost acuminate, often reaching but scarcely overtopping the galea. **Flower** solitary, erect, front mostly dark green finely striped with white, stripes of white widening toward back of galea with green narrowing. **Ovary** erect. **Dorsal sepal** 30–50 mm tall, slightly to distinctly inclined in its proximal portion, apex long, narrow, more or less parallel-sided with only weakly involute margins, strongly deflexed; lateral sepals diverging at a narrow angle, caudae of lobes greatly attenuated erect, sometimes strongly deflexed to the back of the galea. **Petals** much shorter than dorsal sepal with acute apices. **Labellum** narrowly triangular, slightly arched protruding. **Column** shorter than labellum; stigma narrowly ellipsoid, scarcely distinguished from column and rather flat.

SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *Pterostylis patens* Colenso, from which it differs by the often decumbent or sprawling rather than consistently erect habit, distinctly wider oval to broadly elliptic rather than broadly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate (grassy) leaves; and by the lateral sepals whose caudae though very long are mostly held erect rather than consistently strongly deflexed back and down, sometimes meeting at the back of the galea.

DISTRIBUTION

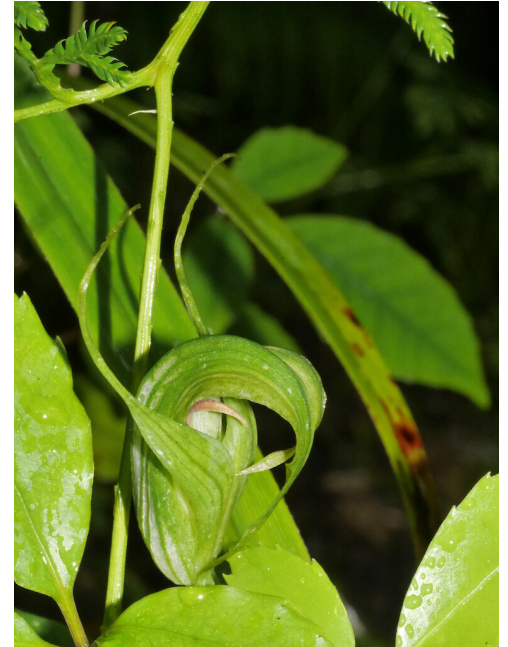
Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (in the west from North-west Nelson to about Arthur's Pass National Park).

HABITAT

Montane forest and subalpine scrub (rarely above 1200 m a.s.l.). Often along stream sides or under shrubs growing in dense drifts of partially decomposed leaf litter. Sometimes common on track side banks and cuttings.

GENUS

Pterostylis



Flower. Canvastown, S.I. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 18/11/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Basal leaves of immature plants. Bealey, Arthur's Pass S.I. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 13/11/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis oliveri Petrie

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–January

FRUITING

January–April

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

PTEOLI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 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](#).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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