

Pterostylis puberula

COMMON NAME

dwarf greenhood

SYNONYMS

Pterostylis nana R.Br., *Pterostylis nana* auct. non. R.Br.; Rupp; *Linguella puberula* (Hook.f.) D.L.Jones, M.A.Clem. et Molloy

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis puberula Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Indeterminate

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PTENAN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = (48), 50$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings Islands, North Island from Te Pahi to Hamilton Basin (Waikato) and southern Coromandel Peninsula, thence disjunct to Wellington (Taita Hills and near Eastbourne); South Island, North West Nelson, near Westhaven. Since 1990 it has been reported only from Great Island in the Three Kings, on the Surville Cliffs (Te Pahi) and from the Kauaeranga Valley, near Thames.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland on clay banks beneath light scrub (especially kahikatoa *Leptospermum scoparium*) and gumland.



November - Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



At North Cape. Photographer: G.M. Crowcroft

FEATURES

Slender orchid up to 200 mm tall, stem and foliage often somewhat chlorotic. Stem pale silvery-green to pale yellow-green, covered in minute, harsh tubercles, distinctly though irregularly, puberulent. Rosette leaves, numerous, appressed; petiole distinctly though narrowly winged, 5-7 mm long; lamina 7 x 5 mm, silvery-green to pale yellow-green, ovate, acute. Cauline leaves, sparse, similar, sheathing. Flower solitary, silvery-white, striped green to pale green, set well above nearest bract. Dorsal sepal 10-15 mm, erect for 2/3 of length, then almost horizontal, apex obtuse to shortly acute; lateral sepals fused, diverging widely, U-shaped in front view, then sharply contracted into long, slender, erect, filamentous caudae, these slightly clavate toward apex; caudae set well above galea. Petals = or longer than dorsal sepal, subacute. Labellum oblong. Column longer than labellum; stigma long-oval, prominent.

SIMILAR TAXA

The silvery-green to pale yellow-green, often somewhat chlorotic appearance, compact, tightly appressed rosette leaves, distinctly though minutely harshly tuberculate and irregularly puberulent stem, largely devoid of cauline leaves, blunt-ended dorsal sepal, and filamentous, slightly clavate caudae set this species apart from all other New Zealand green hoods.

FLOWERING

September – December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

September – January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Habitat loss and degradation through weed encroachment, natural regeneration of forest species, and pig rooting are the main threats. Also, over-collection by botanists and orchid enthusiasts has occurred in the past.

ETYMOLOGY

pterostylis: Winged column

puberula: With tiny hairs

WHERE TO BUY

Not available.

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. Accordingly *Linguella* is treated as *Pterostylis*. Further, the claim to specific status for the New Zealand plant, which has variously been treated as conspecific with the Australian *P. nana* or as a distinct endemic *P. puberula* needs further critical evaluation. Pending further study *P. puberula* is retained for now as a distinct New Zealand endemic.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description based on de Lange et al. (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.; Rolfe, J. St George, I. Sawyer J. 2007: Wild orchids of the lower North Island. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 194pp.

Janes, J.K.; Dorothy A. S.; Vaillancourt, R.E.; Duretto, M.F. 2010: A new classification for subtribe Pterostylidinae (Orchidaceae), reaffirming *Pterostylis* in the broad sense. *Australian Systematic Botany* 23: 260–269

Jones, D.L.; Clements, M.A.; Molloy, B.P.J 2002: A Synopsis of the Subtribe Pterostylidinae. *Australian Orchid Research* 4: 129-146.

Szlachekto, D.L. 2001: Genera et Species Orchidaliium 1. *Polish Botanical Journal* 46: 11-26

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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