

Pterostylis venosa

COMMON NAMES

greenhood

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, forming small patches of 3–many plants through vegetative extension. Plant at flowering (30)–50–100 mm tall. **Stem** erect, smooth, dark green, to reddish green, usually immersed within a loose basal rosette of leaves until the fruiting ovary elongates the stem. **Leaves** erect to somewhat spreading, 2–4, margins entire, though usually undulose in the basal $\frac{1}{3}$, overtopping or at least equally the flower; lamina 30–60 × 10–25 mm, dark green to yellow green, broadly oval, rarely orbicular, apex obtuse to broadly subacute, base gradually narrowing into a broadly winged sheathing petiole. **Flower** solitary, erect, dark green to yellow green, white striped. **Ovary** mostly erect. **Dorsal sepal** 15 mm tall, erect then horizontal; apex acute to very shortly acuminate. **Lateral sepals** diverging at a narrow angle, initially erect, apex acuminate to shortly caudate, scarcely overtopping galea. **Petals** almost as long as dorsal sepal, broad almost to apex. **Labellum** narrowly triangular, arcuate, protruding, apex subacute, inner surface copiously invested with short retrorse hairs imparting a furry appearance. **Column** shorter than labellum; stigma narrow elliptic, not upturned.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *P. humilis* from which it differs by the very narrow stigma which is not upturned or prominently heart-shaped, and by the abundant short retrorse hairs on the labellum surface.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Mostly montane extending to lowlands in the southern part of its range. Usually in beech (Nothofagaceae) forest where it often grows in deep, damp drifts of moss or leaf litter in heavy shade or well lighted situations.

GENUS

Pterostylis

FAMILY

Orchidaceae



Southern Taranua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.



Labellum. Southern Taranua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis venosa Col.

SYNONYMS

Pterostylis confertifolia Allan, *Pterostylis trifolia* Colenso

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–February

FRUITING

December–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

venosa: Veined

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

PTEVEN

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

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened [Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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