Pterostylis porrecta

COMMON NAMES
shrimp-flowered greenhood

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

Eastern Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 01/12/2019, Licence: CC BY.

Porirua. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 24/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial tuberous herb growing in diffuse colonies. **Sterile plants** 20–50 mm tall, 3–4-leaved; leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, 40–70 × 4–6 mm, dark green, margins entire, apex acute to acuminate. **Flowering plants** 60–200 mm tall. **Leaves** 4–5, cauline, obliquely erect to spreading, sometimes arcuate; lamina linear-lanceolate, 45–120 × 4–6 mm, sessile, sheathing at the base; margins entire; apex acute to acuminate. **Pedicel** 10 mm long, slender. **Ovary** narrowly ellipsoid, 7–10 mm long, yellow-green, ribbed. **Flower** solitary, 18–22 mm long, semi-nodding, translucent white and pale green, darker towards the tip of the galea, the points of the sepals pale pink; galea shallowly gibbous at the base then leaning forwards before decurving in a shallow curve to the apex, the dorsal sepal much longer than the petals. **Dorsal sepal** ovate-lanceolate in outline when flattened, 19–22 × 9–11 mm, prominently expanded in the proximal third then gradually tapered to the acuminate apex. **Lateral sepals** obliquely erect top nearly horizontal, held well away from the galea, leaving a very wide lateral gap to the marginal petals; most of the labellum visible from the side through this gap; upper part of sinus flat when viewed from the side, sloping to a broad v when viewed from the front; internally the sinus projecting inwards as a small platform-like structure; conjoined part 7–9 × 5–6 mm wide at the top, narrowed to 1.6 mm wide at the base, the margins inrolled towards the apex and tapered into the free points, the free points 13–15 mm long, narrowly tapered to an attenuate apex, curved forwards, the tips often shallowly curved. **Petals** oblong-lanceolate, 16–19 × 3.0–3.5 mm, nearly straight, acute to acuminate, green with a white central area and two or three green stripes; flange vestigial. **Labellum** obliquely erect, shallowly curved forwards distally, the apex not protruding through the sinus in the set position; labellum hinge ligulate, 3 × 1 mm; lamina oblong, 8.0–9.0 × 2.3–2.5 mm, green to brownish green with a darker green central callus, apex obtuse, pinkish; callus 0.5 mm wide near the apex, raised; basal appendage 2.6–3.0 mm long, decurved. apex penicillate. **Column** 10–12 mm long, bent away from the ovary at about 50 degrees at the base then obliquely erect, green and white;column foot 3 mm long. **Column-wings** 4.5–5.0 mm long; basal lobe 2.0 × 0.7 mm, at an angle of 40 degrees, apex broadly obtuse, inner margins incurved, sparsely ciliate; mid-section 1.5 mm long, green; apical lobe 0.8 mm long, obtuse. **Anther** 1 mm long, shortly rostrate. **Pollinia** linear-clavate, 1.0–1.2 mm long, yellow, mealy. **Stigma** narrowly scutiform, 5.0–5.5 × 1.0–1.4 mm, situated just below column-wings raised. **Capsule** subcylindrical to broadly ellipsoid, 8–14 × 4–6 mm, initially yellow-green maturing grey.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the small, semi-nodding, pale green and white flowers; by the lateral sepals being obliquely erect to nearly horizontal and held well away from the galea leaving a wide lateral gap exposing most of the labellum in the set position; by the pale pink narrowly tapered free points of the lateral sepals with the tips curled forwards; and by the straight petal; and oblong labellum.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Usually in deeply shaded, damp scrub and light forest. Also on ultramafic rock.

THREATS

A biologically sparse species, known from widely scattered sites. It is possibly threatened by plant collectors.

GENUS

Pterostylis

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterostylis porrecta D.L.Jones, Molloy, et M.A.Clem.

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1997)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November–January

FRUITING
January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY
pterostylis: Winged column

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to native orchids of New Zealand

NVS CODE
PTEPOR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Sparse
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Jones DL, Molloy BPJ, Clements MA. 1997. Six new species of *Pterostylis* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian 12*: 266–281.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description based on Jones et al. (1997).

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterostylis-porrecta/

PDF DATE
25 August 2026