

# Adenochilus gracilis

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Gracile, terrestrial, rhizomatous, perennial herb without tubers. Plant at flowering up to 200 mm tall. **Stem** erect, slender. **Leaves**, glabrous, petiolate and cauline. Petiolate leaf arising from rhizome, separate and usually well spaced from flowering stem, emerging through a cylindrical sheath-like leaf, 10–30 mm long, green ovate to ovate-oblong or oblong, base cordate, apex acute to subacute; cauline leaf sessile, inserted about half-way up stem, 10–20 mm long, green, ovate to ovate-oblong, acute to subacute, base more or less cordate, occasionally shallowly notched.

**Flower** usually solitary, rarely paired, subtended by 1–2 floral bracts.

**Perianth** 10–20 mm diameter, external surfaces shortly and finely glandular pubescent. **Sepals** lanceolate, acute; dorsal sepal greenish, concave, strongly arched over column and fused to it near base; lateral sepals whitish, wide-spreading. **Petals** similar to sepals. **Labellum** much shorter and more or less obscured by overhanging dorsal sepal, shortly clawed, semi-erect; disc broad-oblong, mid-lobe narrow and recurved, bearing transverse red to maroon stripes, calli shortly stipitate, spheroidal, yellow, aligned in 2–4 longitudinal rows, extending inwards from broader part of mid-lobe. **Column** elongate, curved, winged throughout, the wings, membranous, upturned and more or less dentate-lobed above anther, reddish inside pale outside. **Anther** terminal incurved, pollinia mealy; stigma prominent, rostellum 2-lobed

## SIMILAR TAXA

On account of its whitish flowers with their externally glandular pubescent covering *Adenochilus* is most often confused with species of *Caladenia* R.Br., from which genus it is easily recognised by its rhizomatous, non-tuberous growth habit, and by its separate, ovate, ovate-oblong, petiolate and cauline leaves. *Caladenia* have 1–(2) linear, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate hairy leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Coromandel Range south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

In the northern part of its range usually montane otherwise widespread in lowland to alpine habitats. A species of thick moss mats or deep drifts of semi-decomposed leaf litter under forest, subalpine scrub or in sphagnum moss bordering wetlands. Often found in exotic forests, particularly pine plantations.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

## DETAILED TAXONOMY



Close up of flower. Iwitahi. Photographer: Bill Campbell, Date taken: 06/12/2015, Licence: CC BY.



Iwitahi. Photographer: Bill Campbell, Date taken: 06/12/2015, Licence: CC BY.

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Adenochilus gracilis* Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### FLOWERING

October–March

### FRUITING

December–May

### LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

### WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### ETYMOLOGY

**adenochilus**: From the Greek aden 'gland' and cheilos 'lip'

**gracilis**: Slender

### MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

### NVS CODE

ADEGRA

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 38

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

## 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1980).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/adenochilus-gracilis/>

## PDF DATE

12 October 2024