

# 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

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / 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 Manawatāwhi / Great Island in the Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, on the Hikurua / de 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, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At North Cape. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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 × 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  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.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

## 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 greenhoods.

## 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 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, NZ. 194 p.

Janes JK, Duretto MF. 2010. A new classification for subtribe Pterostylidinae (Orchidaceae), reaffirming *Pterostylis* in the broad sense. *Australian Systematic Botany* 23: 260–269. <https://doi.org/10.1071/SB09052>.

Jones DL, Clements MA, Molloy BPJ. 2002. A Synopsis of the Subtribe *Pterostylidinae*. *Australian Orchid Research* 4: 129–146.

Szlachekto, D.L. 2001: Genera et Species Orchidalium 1. *Polish Botanical Journal* 46(1): 11–26.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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