

PTEROSTYLIS CARDIOSTIGMA D. COOPER
- A NEW RECORD FOR THE WAITAKERES

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On 21.10.1989, on a Bot. Soc. field trip to Mount Donald McLean, Maureen Young found several plants of what appeared to be Pterostylis cardiostigma, not previously recorded north of Kawhia. On 28.10.1989, by the kindness of Bryn and Sandra Jones, I was able to look over the area and confirm Maureen Young's determination. Undoubtedly cardiostigma. Flowerless plants, or plants in early bud are easily confused with P. banksii, but when the flower is open there is no mistaking it. Very erect and compact, not unlike a swamp bittern with its beak pointed to the sky. The main points of identification are the lobed, heart-shaped, protruding stigma, usually smothered in pollen (the flowers are self-fertile), and the short 'tails' to the sepals.

The plants occurred in several colonies spread along a quarter of a kilometre, down a broad ridge to the west of the Donald McLean Track. The plant association was dominated by open, windswept manuka about 5 m high, with occasional rewarewa, several Coprosma spp., Olearia furfuracea and Pseudopanax crassifolius. The ground cover consisted largely of Gahnia sp., Blechnum 'black spot' and B. fraseri; the ubiquitous Schoenus tendo and the moss Leucobryum.

P. cardiostigma grew in twig debris among the manuka. 21 plants were observed, of which 9 were in flower or late bud. A voucher specimen has been deposited in AK.

P. cardiostigma is illustrated in -

Cooper, D. N.Z. Journal of Botany 21:97 (1983) - drawings - reprinted in N.Z. Native Orchid Group Newsletter 6:8 June 1983 and again in 31:10 September 1989.

Johns, J. and Molloy, B.P.J. Native Orchids of N.Z. 51 t74 (1983) over the name Pterostylis 'Day's Bay' - a particularly good photograph.

Irwin, J.B. N.Z. Native Orchid Group Newsletter 20:4 December 1986 - drawing of a plant from Iwitahi.

Other orchids noted in the area were P. banksii and P. graminea in flower; P. alobula and P. trullifolia dying back; Chiloglottis cornuta in flower (one plant with 3 leaves); plentiful Corybas oblongus and a single plant of C. macranthus.

Also a colony of Caladenia catenata with 7 plants in seed and one with a single late flower. C. catenata, with red-purple flowers, appears in the Waitakeres to be confined to the Manukau breccia along the west coast.

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