

## Pterostylis

### Name and Authority

**Pterostylis** R.Br.

### Common Name

Greenhoods, Shell, Bird, Snail Orchids

### Originally Described by

Robert Brown in Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holland. 326 (1810)

### Flowering Months

· · · Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### Description

Pterostylis [species](#) generally have a smooth flowering stem (there are a few with hairy flower stems) and up to 25 translucent, dull green, brown or reddish-brown and white to greenish-white flowers on an erect [inflorescence](#). The [dorsal sepal](#) and [petals](#) are united and form a hood over the [column](#). The two lower [sepals](#) are united at the base and the [labellum](#) is usually irritable, small and tongue like with a spur at its base. With the exception of the Snail Orchids (Pterostylis nana [complex](#)) and Jug Orchid (P. recurva) the [labellum](#) often protrudes through the enclosure formed by the [sepals](#) and [petals](#). Unlike most Western Australian geophytic orchids which have a solitary leaf, Pterostylis [species](#) have multiple leaves. These can be flattened to slightly ascending [rosette](#) of up to 20 or more leaves encircling the base of the flowering stem or several [cauline](#) leaves. In some [species](#) a [basal rosette](#) is found in both flowering and non-flowering plants while in others the [rosette](#) is present only in non-flowering plants.

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[Pterostylis aspera complex \(Shell Orchids\)](#)



[Pterostylis distribution](#)



[Pterostylis barbata complex \(Bird Orchids\)](#)



[Pterostylis mutica complex \(Midget Greenhoods\)](#)



[Pterostylis nana complex \(Snail Orchids\)](#)



[Pterostylis rufa complex \(Rufus Greenhoods\)](#)



[Pterostylis sargentii complex \(Frog Greenhoods\)](#)



[Pterostylis vittata complex \(Banded Greenhoods\)](#)



[Pterostylis 'other'](#)



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