



Male fungus-gnat
Allodia sp 1
 Mirranatwa >>>>>
 20 Aug 15



***Pterostylis diminuta* – Small Tall-greenhood pollinator**

This orchid looks superficially very similar to *Pterostylis melagramma*, but flowers are much smaller and the labellum is just under 4 mm long, less hairy and pale yellowish with a central dark stripe. It has a limited geographical distribution and is known from the Grampians and Stawell to Ararat regions. As expected the pollinator it attracted was also rather small and, like the other members of the tall-greenhood group, it belongs the fungus-gnat family Mycetophilidae, but it was a member of the very different genus *Allodia*. Observations were made from about mid-day and the first male arrived at 2:26 PM. During a period of just over 2 hours, 5 individuals in all visited the flowers until 4:38 PM. One was witnessed being trapped in the flower for about 5 minutes. It flew out with pollinia attached on the thorax, but an image was not possible and unfortunately it was not seen again. This male fungus-gnat is tiny and has a proportionally long slender abdomen, long antennae and legs also long but with short femur (upper part). The synsepalum of the flower is 10 mm long and the fungus-gnat about 3 mm, but it can stretch and bend its abdomen considerably during its motions going through the pseudocopulation process.



