

Jewels of the Bush

Wild Orchids
of the Murray Region



Local Land
Services

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Wild Orchids Consortium

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Jewels of the Bush

Wild Orchids of the Murray Region

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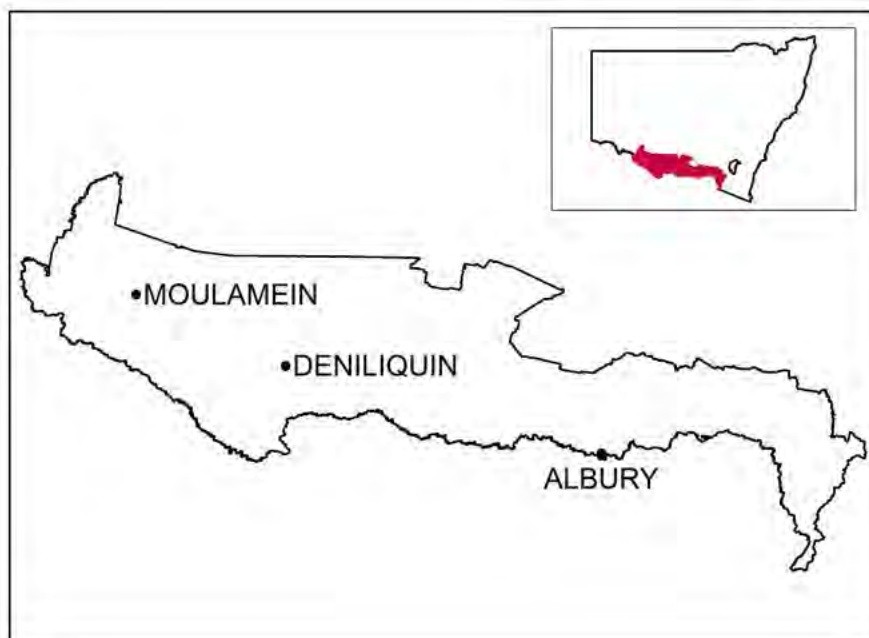
Wild Orchids

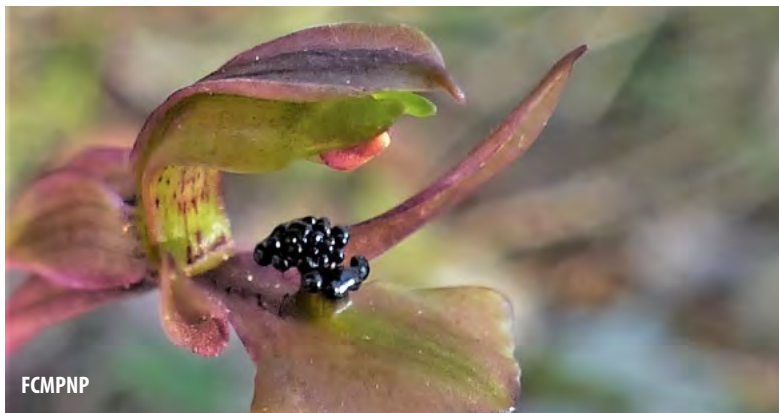
of the NSW Murray Region

This booklet has been prepared to aid identification of a selection of native orchids in the NSW Murray region.

This booklet is not an exhaustive list, it provides a general overview of the various types of orchids found in our region based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.

Please see the references and websites listed at the end of this booklet for further information and more detailed species identification field guides.





Wild Orchids Project

an overview

Orchids are among the most beautiful and mysterious of all Australian native flowering plants. These jewels of the bush are important and striking additions to local biodiversity. Australia hosts over 1,700 species, but many face extinction without adequate conservation management.

The Wild Orchids Project will contribute to the long-term viability of three endangered orchid species: the sand-hill spider orchid (*Caladenia arenaria*), crimson spider orchid (*Caladenia concolor*), and Oaklands donkey orchid (*Diuris callitrophila*).

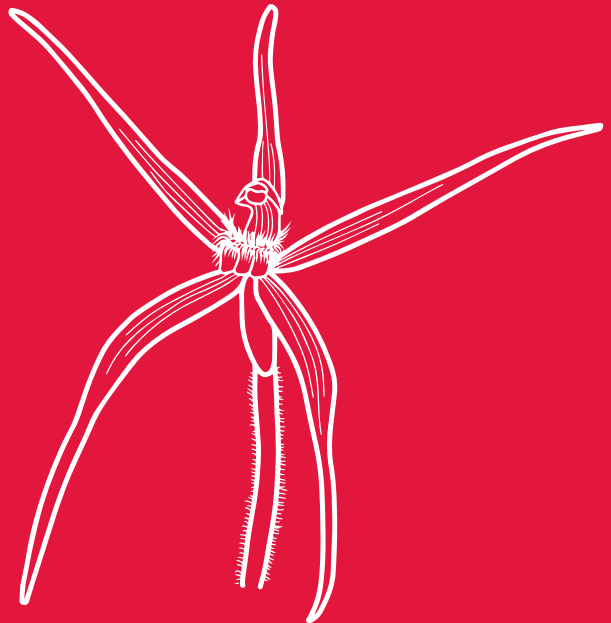
Monitoring in 2014 indicated that there were less than 2000 sand-hill spider orchids, less than 75 crimson spider orchids and less than 1000 Oaklands donkey orchids left in the wild. This project aims to increase the population sizes of all three orchids species to 3000 plants each.

The Wild Orchids Consortium is working together to save these species. Project activities include:

- establishing new populations of orchids by propagating seed from the remaining remnant populations and planting into new secured sites
- controlling invasive grasses and weeds at all known remnant sites.
- thinning of cypress pine at some remnant sites
- installing and maintaining rabbit and stock proof fencing to prevent grazing of orchids
- monitoring all known remnant sites and new trans-location sites
- research into key pollinators and orchid propagation methods.

Feature Orchids

Sand-hill spider orchid (<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>)	6
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Sand-hill spider orchid

Caladenia arenaria

The sand-hill spider orchid is classified as Endangered in both NSW and nationally. Fewer than 2,000 plants are believed to exist in the wild.

Characteristics

- Five long spreading petals around a broad down-curved labellum (or 'lip').
- Single densely hairy leaf, reddish at the base, up to 10 cm long and 6 mm wide.
- A flower stem up to 40 cm tall.
- Usually one but occasionally 2 pale yellow flowers, up to 80 mm across.



MC



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Ecology and life cycle

- Single leaf emerges in autumn-early winter.
- Flowering occurs between August and September, although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs by male thynnine wasps.
- Seed only germinates symbiotically in the presence of a fungal partner.
- The plant survives summer underground, as a dormant tuber.

Habitat

The sand-hill spider orchid occurs in woodland with sandy soil, particularly at sites dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



Distribution

Historically, the sand-hill spider orchid was scattered along the Edward, Columbo, Yanco and Murrumbidgee rivers in the Riverina region. Its past distribution may have been even wider and encompassed a greater variety of habitats.

The species has undergone a substantial decline in range over the past century. Currently its distribution is highly localised and rare, restricted to NSW, mostly on the south west plains and western south west slopes, including locations near Narrandera and Urana.



Threats

- Small population size.
- Hybridisation with other orchid species, which may reduce genetic viability.
- Grazing pressure from livestock and feral herbivores.
- Limited ecological knowledge.
- Competition with dense white cypress pine regrowth.
- Human interference and forestry operations.



LC

Crimson spider orchid

Caladenia concolor

The crimson spider orchid is listed as Endangered in NSW and Vulnerable nationally.

Characteristics

- Flowers 50–70 mm across.
- Dorsal sepal erect, lateral sepals and petals spreading.
- Flower stem up to 30 cm tall, densely hairy.
- Single, rarely two, dark red to crimson flowers.
- Single hairy leaf 8–15 cm long and 10 mm wide.
- Some have reported that the flowers have a strong “hot motor” odour.

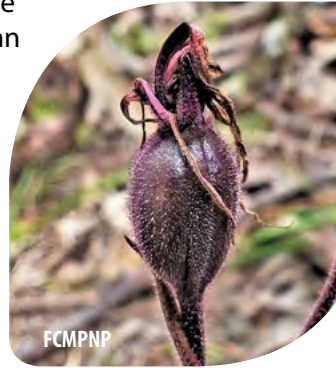


Ecology and life cycle

- Single leaf emerges during autumn or winter.
- Flowers in spring (September to November), although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs by male thynnine wasps.
- If pollination is successful, a seed pod forms and the seed is shed 4 to 6 weeks after pollination, often by early December.
- The plant survives summer underground, as a dormant tuber.

Habitat

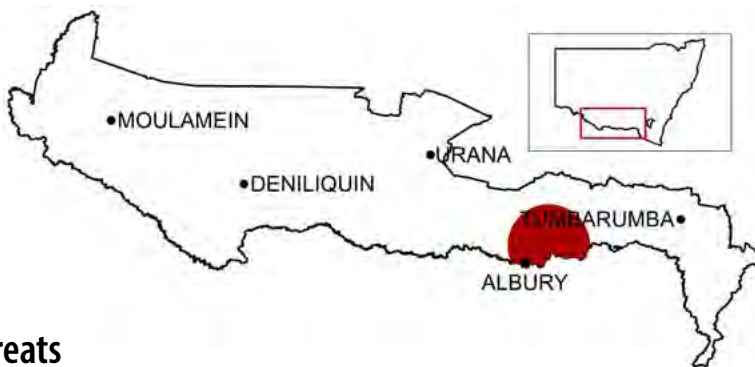
The crimson spider orchid is found on stony granite ridges and slopes in grassy or shrubby woodland. At sites where it is currently found the ground flora is relatively diverse and other orchid species are present. These orchids grow in an interdependent relationship with a mycorrhizal fungus.



Distribution

Historically, the crimson spider orchid was scattered across southern NSW, and north-eastern and southern central Victoria.

The current known distribution of the species includes northern Victoria, in the Beechworth and Chiltern areas, the outskirts of Melbourne in box-ironbark remnant, and near Albury at Nail Can Hill Crown Reserve and Benambra National Park in NSW.



Threats

- Small population size.
- Restricted distribution.
- Drying climate.
- Inappropriate fire regimes and management activities.
- Damage from recreational users.
- Competition with exotic grasses, such as *Briza* spp.
- Human interference.
- Track maintenance activities.



Oaklands donkey orchid

Diuris callitrophila

The Oaklands diuris or Oaklands donkey orchid is listed as Endangered in NSW. Fewer than 1,000 plants are believed to exist in the wild.

Characteristics

- White, mauve or purple flowers with some darker markings.
- Up to 9 flowers per stem. The stem is stout, green and up to 50 cm tall.
- Slightly fragrant flowers that look like 'donkey' ears, characteristic of the genus, and two long, green, narrow downward turned sepals up to 120 mm long.
- Typically, two narrow, green, folded basal leaves up to 35 cm long.



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Ecology and life cycle

- Leaves produced during autumn.
- Flowers in November, although flowering may not occur every year.
- Pollination occurs via food deception, with native blue-banded bees (*Amegilla* sp.) attracted to the flowers because of their superficial resemblance to other nearby plants that provide nectar and pollen.
- If pollination is successful, seed pods form and the seed is shed by late December.
- The plant survives the hot summer underground as a dormant tuber.

Habitat

The Oaklands donkey orchid occurs in open grassy woodlands, usually in light sandy soils, particularly those dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



Distribution

The species is currently believed to be restricted to four sites between Oaklands and Urana in southern NSW.

Three other small populations in that area have gone extinct in recent times.



Threats

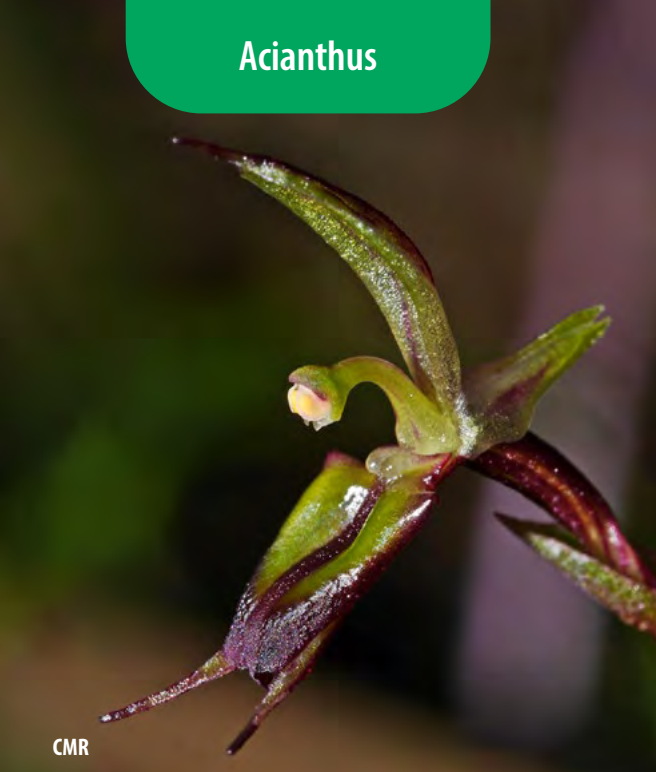
- Small population size.
- Highly restricted distribution.
- Competition with invasive grasses and herbaceous weeds.
- Competition with dense white cypress pine regrowth.
- Browsing by rabbits and kangaroos.
- Inappropriate fire and grazing regimes.

Our Orchids

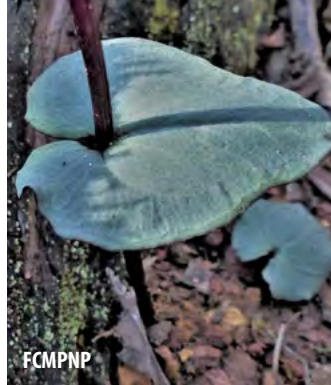
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Acianthus



CMR



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Mosquito orchid

Acianthus exsertus



FCMPNP



LC

Grows on sheltered slopes and gullies in moist forest and woodland. Most common in foothill and mountain areas, in well drained soil.

Up to 25 small flowers.



MARCH to AUGUST

Caladenia



Blue fairy

Caladenia caerulea

Widespread and common from inland areas to mountain regions, growing in a variety of drier habitats including heathland, callitris forest and woodland often on ridges or slopes with shallow, stony soils.

SYNONYM: *Cyanicula caerulea*

JULY to SEPTEMBER



Caladenia



GR



CMR



CMR

Berrigan spider orchid

Caladenia callitophila



LC

Rare, occurs in small, scattered populations near Berrigan where it grows among shrubs and tussocks in callitris woodland.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER

Caladenia

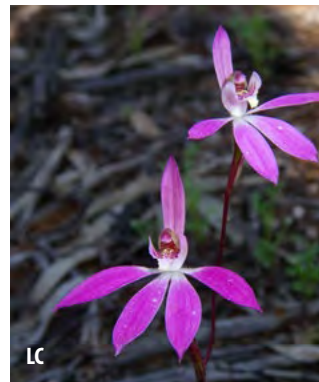


Pink fingers

Caladenia carnea

Widespread common species, extending from coastal regions to inland areas. Grows in a wide range of habitats including heath, open forest, woodland and mallee vegetation, often surviving land disturbance.

Some variability in flower shape, colour and size, up to five flowers.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER

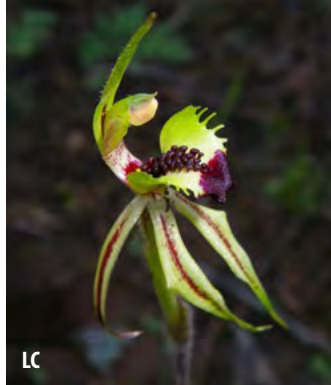


Similar to *C. fuscata*, which has a single flower.

Caladenia



CMR



LC



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Neat spider orchid

Caladenia concinna



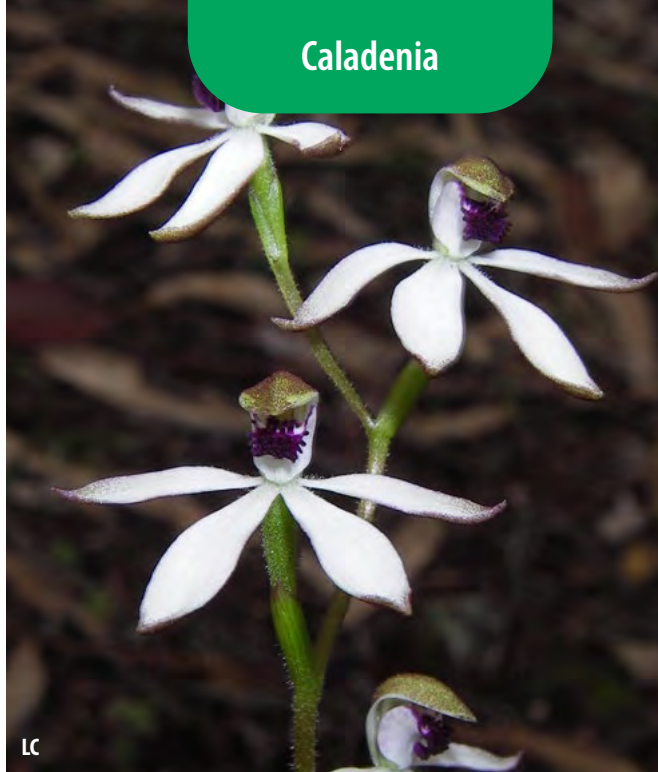
HW



LC



AUGUST to OCTOBER



Hooded caladenia

Caladenia cucullata

Common in inland areas, rare close to the coast. Grows on ridges and slopes in shallow stony soils.

Up to seven citrus scented flowers.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



Caladenia



Daddy long legs

Caladenia filamentosa



Widespread but rarely common, growing in a range of habitats, mostly inland drier sites including open forest, heathy forest and mallee shrubland.

Sometimes grows in dense clumps.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



LC

Flaccid spider orchid

Caladenia flaccida

Highly localised in inland areas, grows amongst sparse shrubs in callitris woodland and open forest in free draining soils.



LC

AUGUST to OCTOBER

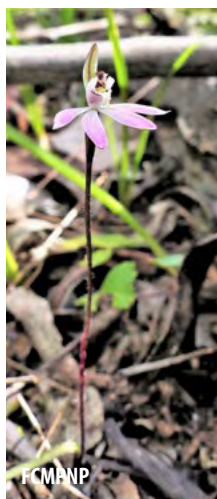


Caladenia



Dusky fingers

Caladenia fuscata



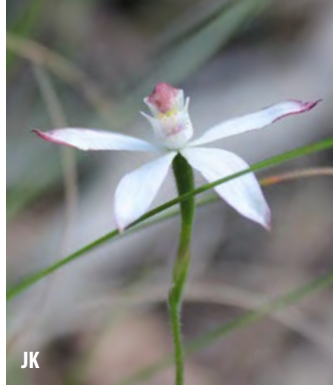
Widespread and common, prefers drier inland forests with shallow soil, but does extend into coastal regions.

Variable flower colour from white to pink, single flower.

Similar to *C. carnea*, which has up to five flowers.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



JK



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LC

Caladenia

Musky caladenia

Caladenia moschata

Grows among tussocks and shrubs on ridges and slopes in open drier forest, occurring inland on the ranges and tablelands. Extends into rain-shadow areas among snow gums.

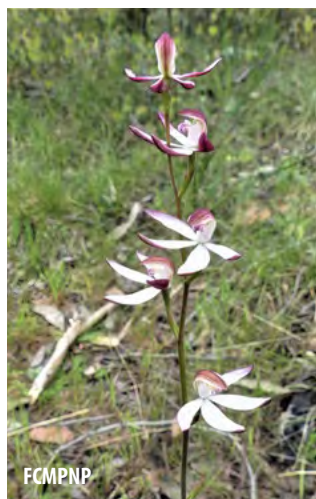
Flowers have a strong musky scent especially on hot days.

SYNONYM: *Caladenia gracilis*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



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Mountain spider orchid

Caladenia montana



Restricted to higher foothills, ranges and sub-alpine areas 700–1,000 m above sea level, where it grows in well drained loam soil on slopes and ridges of montane forest.



OCTOBER to JANUARY

Caladenia



Brown-clubbed spider orchid

Caladenia parva

Grows in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, and mallee communities in well drained soil.

Flowering is enhanced by summer fires.

SYNONYM: *Caladenia phaeoclavia*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER

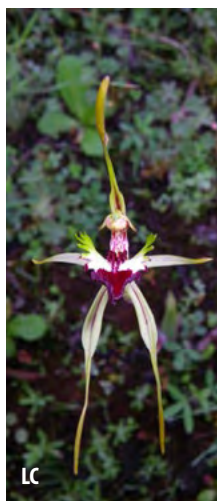


Caladenia



Gillenbah spider orchid

Caladenia rileyi



Rare and very localised to areas near Narrandera, possibly extending towards Jerilderie. Grows in woodland dominated by callitris with a sparse understorey of grasses and forbs. Often grows in thickets of callitris seedling regrowth.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



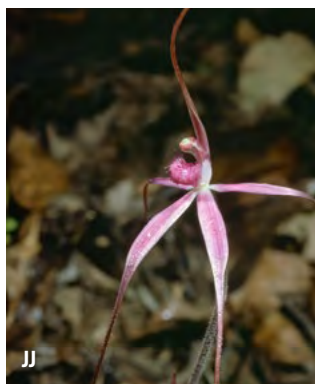
Rosella spider orchid

Caladenia rosella

The single NSW collection of the rosella spider orchid (located in Albury) is estimated to have been collected before 1896. Today, fewer than 200 plants exist near Melbourne.

Grows in woodlands on dry slopes with shallow well drained soil.

Flowers have a sweet musky scent.



JULY to SEPTEMBER



**Presumed Extinct in NSW,
Endangered nationally.**

Caladenia



Star spider orchid

Caladenia stellata



Found in inland areas in callitris dominated woodland amongst scattered shrubs and grass tussocks in gravelly free draining soil.



AUGUST to OCTOBER

Caladenia



Green comb

Caladenia tentaculata

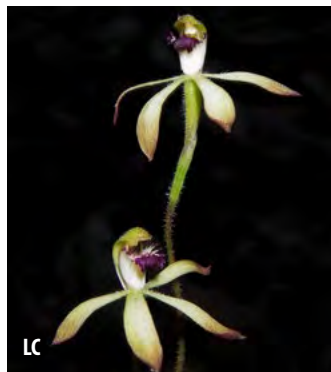
Grows in a wide range of habitats from coastal regions to inland foothills and lower ranges, including heath, woodland and open forest on well drained soil.

Pollinated by male thynnine wasps. Flowering enhanced by summer fires.

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER



Caladenia



Honey caps

Caladenia testacea



Mainly coastal areas but extends inland to the tablelands where it grows in open forest. Flowering enhanced by bushfire.

Generally unscented, however flowers in some areas have a sweet honey scent.



OCTOBER to NOVEMBER

Caladenia

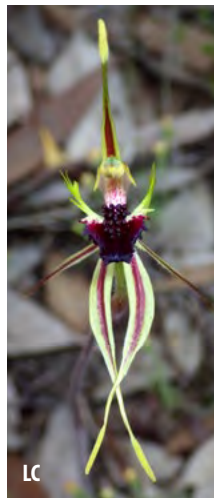


Mallee spider orchid

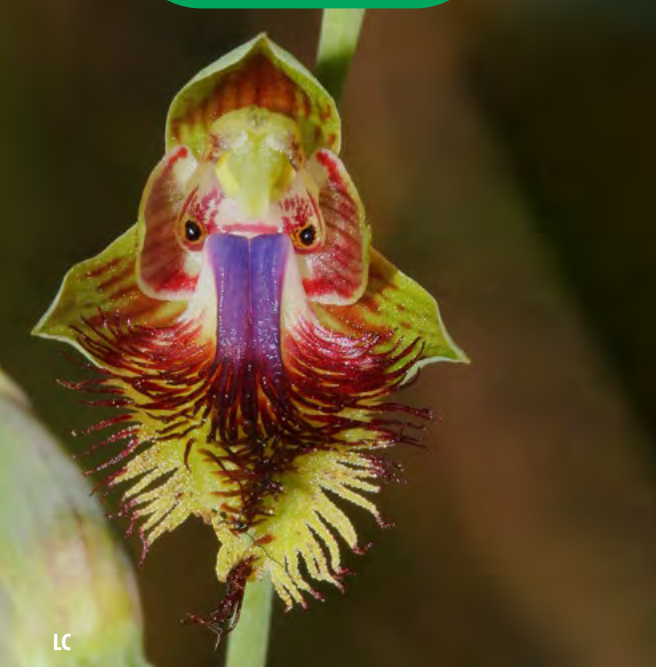
Caladenia verrucosa

Grows in semi-arid areas among tussocks and shrubs in sparse woodland, mallee and callitris forests on deep sandy soils.

AUGUST to OCTOBER



Calochilus



Copper beard orchid

Calochilus campestris

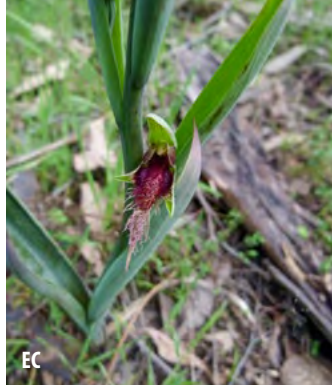


Grows in a range of habitats including mallee scrub, montane forests, wet forests, swampy sites and coastal heath.

Pollinated by male scoliid wasps with flowers lasting only 2–4 days.



SEPTEMBER to JANUARY



EC



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KC

Purplish beard orchid

Calochilus robertsonii

Widespread and common from the coast to mountain regions in a range of habitats including heath, woodland and tall wet forests. Occasionally found on margins of swamps.

Flowers only lasting 3–5 days.

AUGUST to DECEMBER



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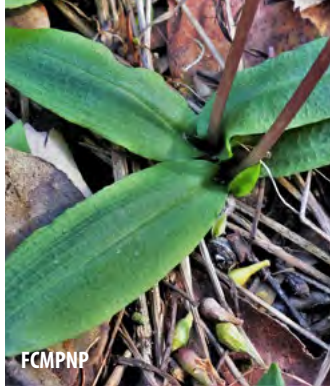


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Chiloglottis



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Broad-lip bird orchid

Chiloglottis trapeziformis



FCMPNP



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Widespread and common in sheltered sites in a range of habitats from the coast to the ranges.

Pollinated by male thynnine wasps attracted to the flowers and deceived into believing they are mating with a female wasp.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER

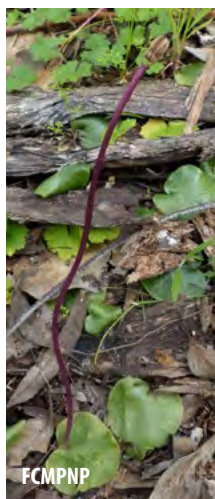


Slaty helmet orchid

Corybas incurvus

Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland ranges. Found in heath, scrub, woodland and open forest in well drained soil. Can form extensive colonies.

JUNE to OCTOBER



Cyrtostylis



Gnat orchid

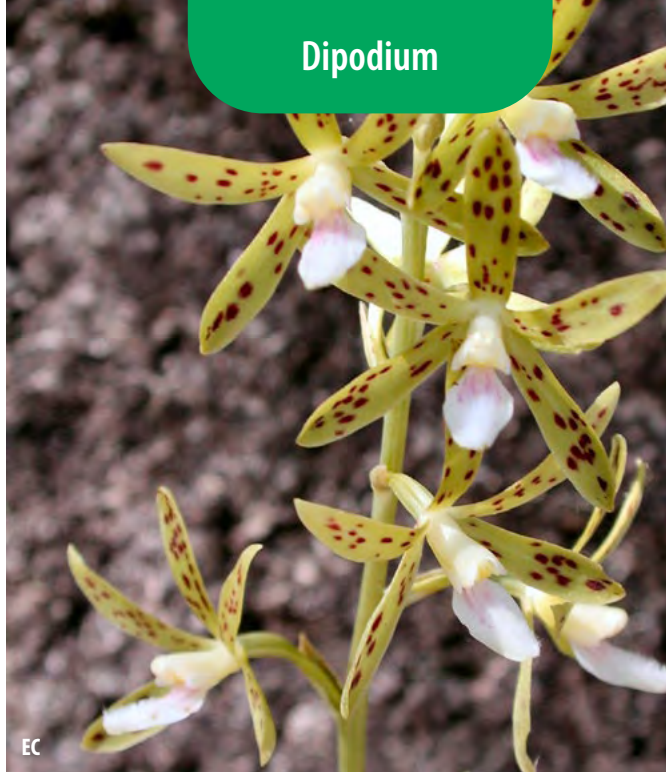
Cyrtostylis reniformis



Widespread from coastal to inland districts in a range of habitats including heath, open forest and woodlands in free draining soil. Can form extensive dense colonies.



MAY to OCTOBER



Inland hyacinth-orchid

Dipodium interaneum

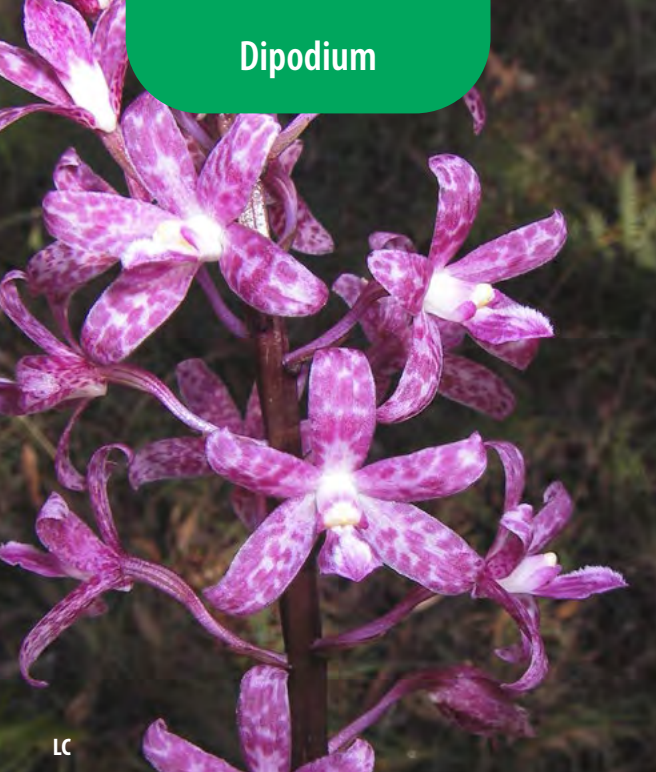
Rare, found on the western slopes in open sparse forest and woodland in drier sites and areas of rain shadow on ridges, slopes and rocky sites, in free draining soil. Up to 30 flowers with small dark red speckles and spots. Flower stem up to 900 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Dipodium hamiltonianum*

NOVEMBER to MARCH



Dipodium



Rosy hyacinth-orchid

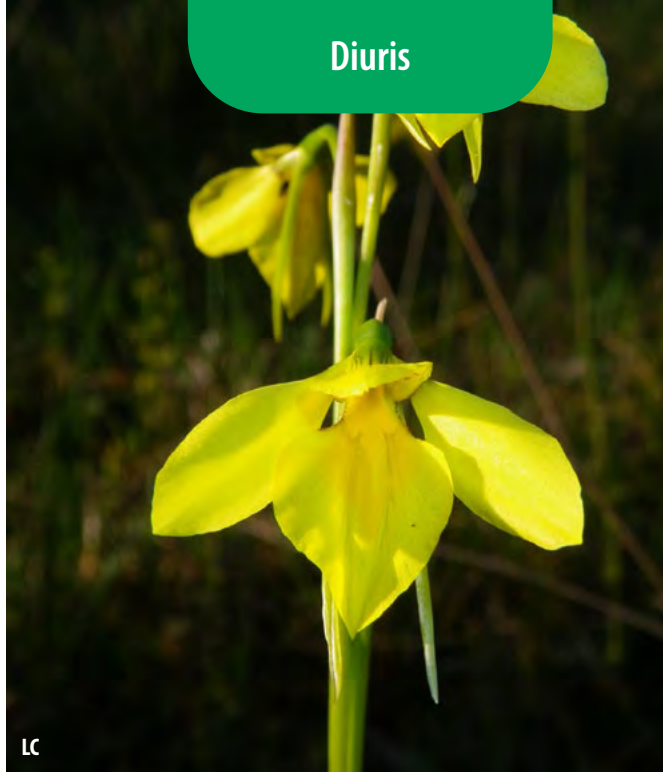
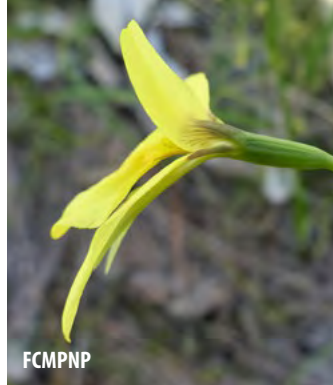
Dipodium roseum



Widespread and common growing in a range of habitats from dry woodlands to wet forests, from coastal regions to the ranges. Less common west of the divide in inland areas.



NOVEMBER to MARCH



Golden cowslips

Diuris amabilis

Grows in grassland and open woodland areas on the slopes and tablelands of NSW.

Up to 4 drooping bright yellow flowers on a flower stem up to 500 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Diuris behrii*

AUGUST to DECEMBER



Diuris



PS



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Common golden moth

Diuris chryseopsis



FCMPNP



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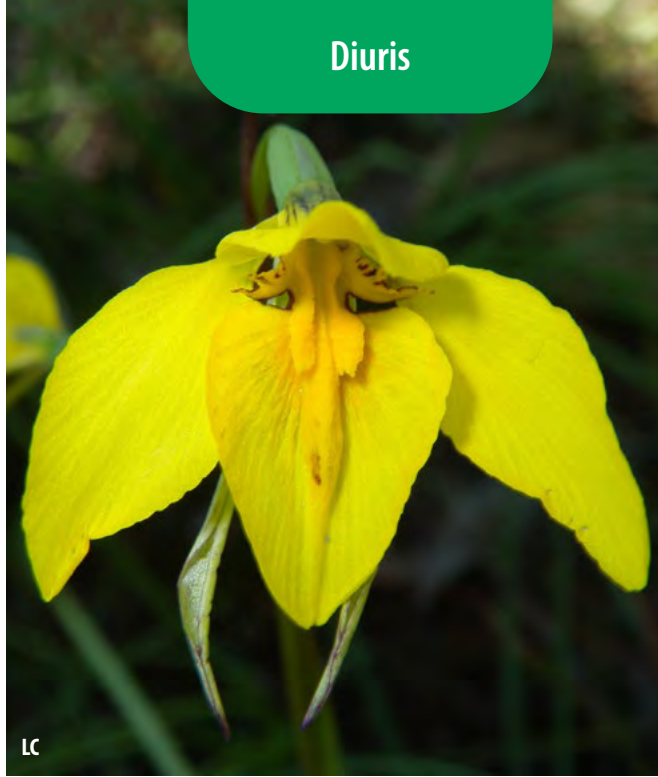
Common and widespread species growing in grassland, grassy forest and woodland, often in damp depressions.

1-4 drooping lemon-yellow flowers with dark internal streaks.



AUGUST to OCTOBER

Diuris



Stained golden moths

Diuris fucosa

Known from only a few localities between Urana and Narrandera, growing in callitris woodland among low shrubs and tussocks.

Classed as extinct in Victoria.

AUGUST to SEPTEMBER



Diuris



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Leopard orchid

Diuris pardina



FCMPNP



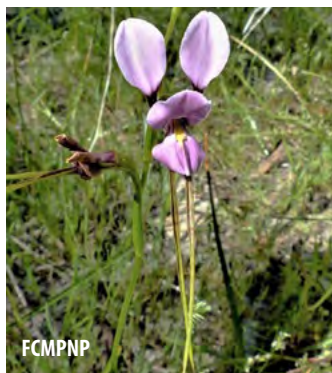
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Grows in heathlands and shrubby open drier forest. Can hybridise with a number of other *Diuris* species.

Up to 10 flowers, heavily blotched and spotted like a leopard, hence its common name.



AUGUST to OCTOBER



Purple donkey orchid

Diuris punctata

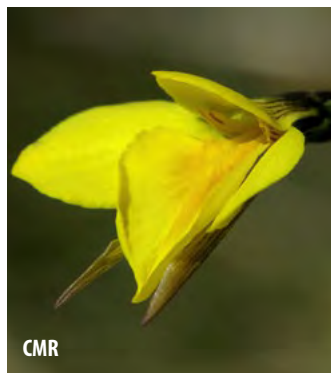
Grows in a range of habitats including woodlands and drier forests on ridges and slopes but also in moist, wet grassland areas, often forming extensive colonies.

Some variation in flower colour depending on locality, ranging from pale to dark purple.

AUGUST to DECEMBER



Diuris



Small snake orchid

Diuris subalpina



Often grows in subalpine and montane areas between 800 and 1500 m altitude, in moist clay loams and peaty loams. Can grow in small to large colonies.

1-2 nodding flowers.



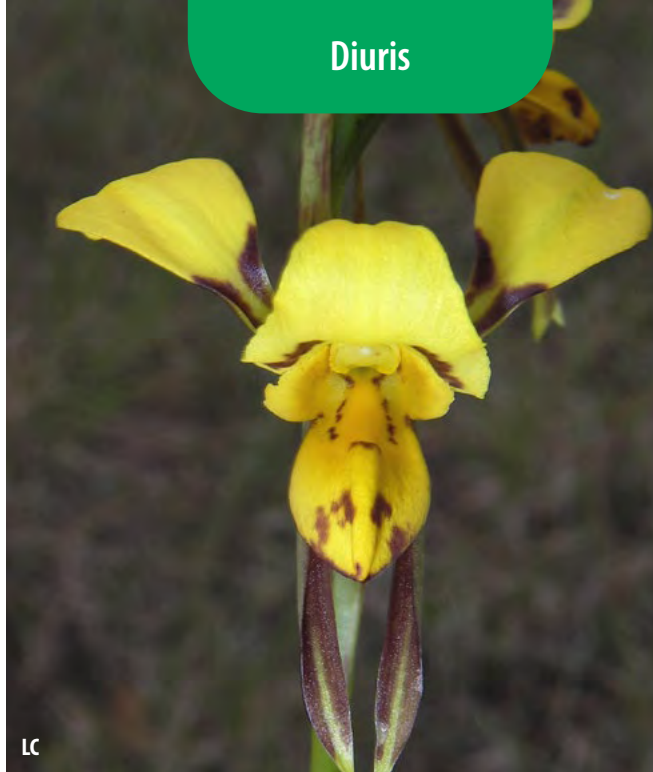
OCTOBER to SEPTEMBER



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Diuris

LC

Tiger orchid

Diuris sulphurea

Widespread, growing in a range of habitats from coastal areas to semi-arid inland sites in woodland, open forest, tall wet forest, heathland and less commonly grassland.

Up to 7 bright yellow flowers with prominent dark brown markings.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER

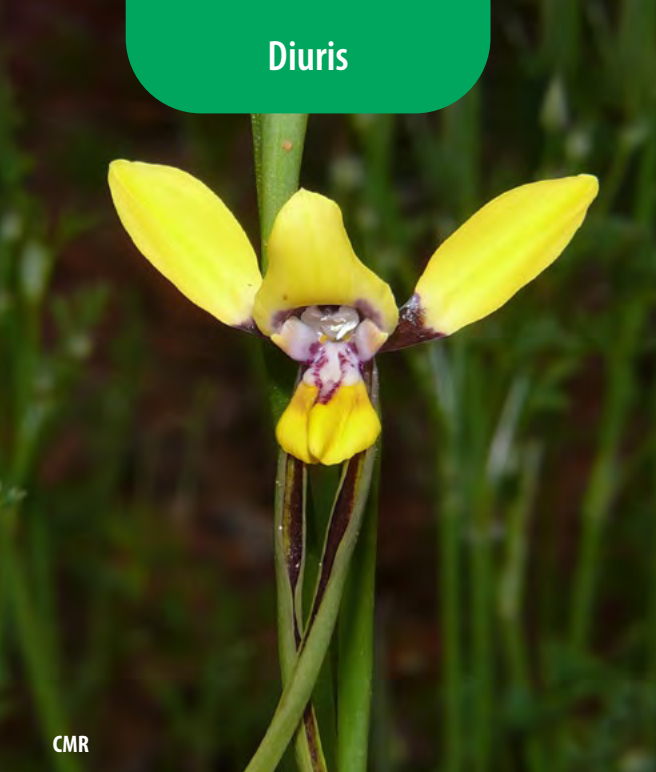


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ET

Diuris



CMR



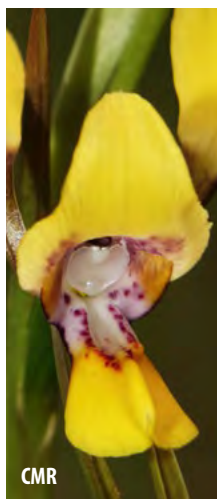
CMR

Pine donkey-orchid

Diuris tricolor



CMR



CMR

Grows in sclerophyll forest among grass tussocks and scattered shrubs, often with callitris pine. Occurs mostly west of the dividing range. Can grow in large colonies; also singularly or in small groups.

Up to 6 flowers from yellow to orange and speckled with red, white and purple marks.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



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EC

Eriochilus

Parson's band

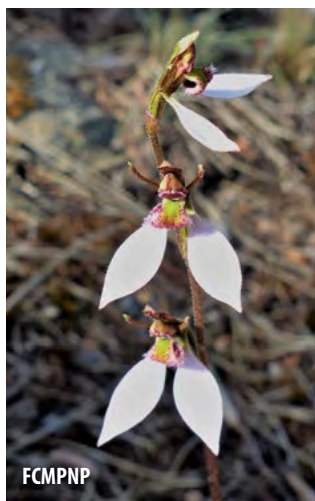
Eriochilus cucullatus

Widespread and common growing among shrubs and tussocks in coastal scrub, grasslands, heath, woodland and montane forests.

Pollinated by small native bees attracted to light but sweet floral fragrance.



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

DECEMBER to MAY



Glossodia



EC



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

Waxlip orchid

Glossodia major



FCMPNP



FCMPNP

Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland areas growing in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland and coastal heath.

Lightly scented flowers ranging from mauve to purple, rarely all white. Mass flowering is common after fires.



AUGUST to NOVEMBER

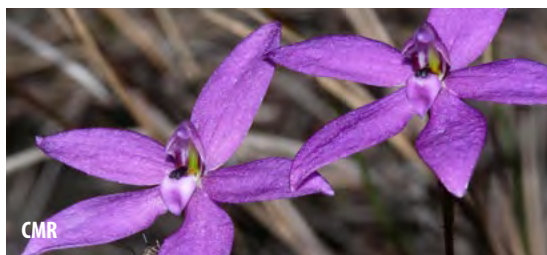


Small waxlip orchid

Glossodia minor

Mainly found along the eastern coastline in coastal heath, extending inland into some areas of the Riverina. Grows in free draining sandy soils.

Pollinated by small native bees.



JULY to OCTOBER



Microtis



LC



Slender onion orchid

Microtis parviflora



Common and widespread in a range of habitats including open forest, woodlands and grassy areas in dry to moist soils.

Flowers frequently pollinated by small ants.



OCTOBER to FEBRUARY

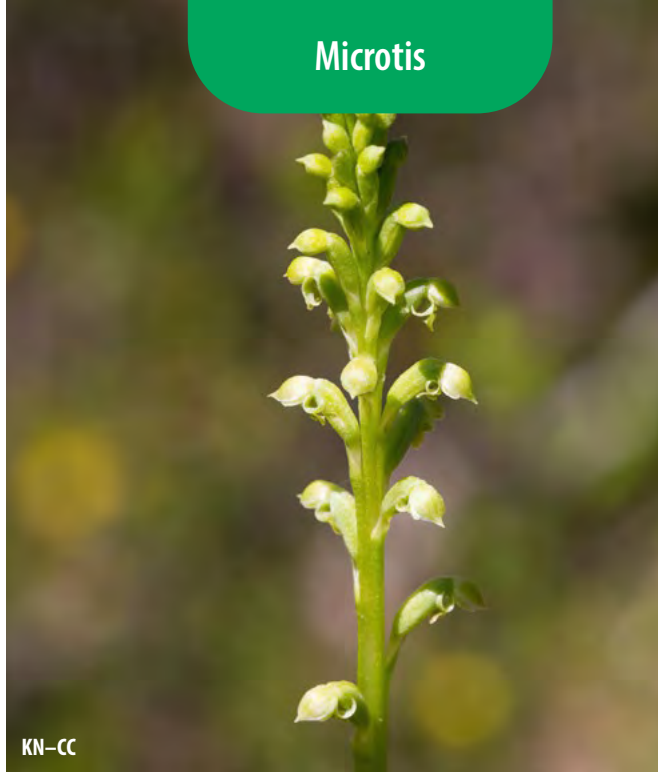


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Microtis



KN-CC

Common onion orchid

Microtis unifolia

Widespread and common, grows in a wide variety of habitats from coastal swamps to rocky outcrops in semi-arid areas. Can colonise gardens and lawns.

Up to 100 small, green crowded flowers.

OCTOBER to JANUARY



FCMPNP



LC

Prasophyllum



Bago leek orchid

Prasophyllum bagoense



Grows in sub-alpine grassy plains and wetlands in moist to wet shallow soils between 900 to 1100 m altitude. Known from a single population in State Forest near Tumbarumba.

Up to 30 crowded, fragrant flowers, tawny green to brown in colour.

Critically Endangered in NSW.



SEPTEMBER to JANUARY



Marung leek orchid

Prasophyllum beatrix

Grows in grassy woodland and vegetation dominated by callitris pine with a sparse understorey.

Up to 35 lightly scented crowded flowers.



SEPTEMBER to OCTOBER



Prasophyllum



CMR



CMR

Brandy Mary's leek orchid

Prasophyllum innubum



CMR

Known from a single population in the Tumbarumba Local Government Area. Restricted to montane areas, streamside habitat and sphagnum moss sites at altitudes of 1150-1180 m.

Up to 20 self-pollinating flowers that lack any scent.

Critically Endangered in NSW.



JANUARY to FEBRUARY



Kelton's leek orchid

Prasophyllum keltonii

Known from a single population in the Tumbarumba Local Government Area, growing in grassland at an altitude of 1100 m.

Up to 22 fragrant flowers that are red, green, brownish-red or purplish with green tinges. Flowers open on warm days.

Critically Endangered in NSW.

DECEMBER to JANUARY



Prasophyllum



LC



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Scented leek orchid

Prasophyllum odoratum



FCMPNP



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Grows in a wide range of habitats including slopes and ridges in dry woodland and heathy woodland.

Up to 50 flowers, often strongly fragrant.



OCTOBER to JANUARY

Prasophyllum



Subalpine leek orchid

Prasophyllum sphacelatum

Grows in sub-alpine meadows, tussock grassland, alpine herbfields and snow gum woodland, often in moist wet areas among tussock grasses.

Up to 18 strongly fragrant flowers, green to reddish brown in colour.

DECEMBER to FEBRUARY



Pterostylis



Alpine greenhood

Pterostylis alpina



Grows in moist forests on the foothills and ranges, extending to some montane areas but not alpine regions. Often on sheltered slopes, gullies and stream banks in moist tall forest, wet sclerophyll forest and fern gullies.

Vulnerable in NSW.



AUGUST to OCTOBER

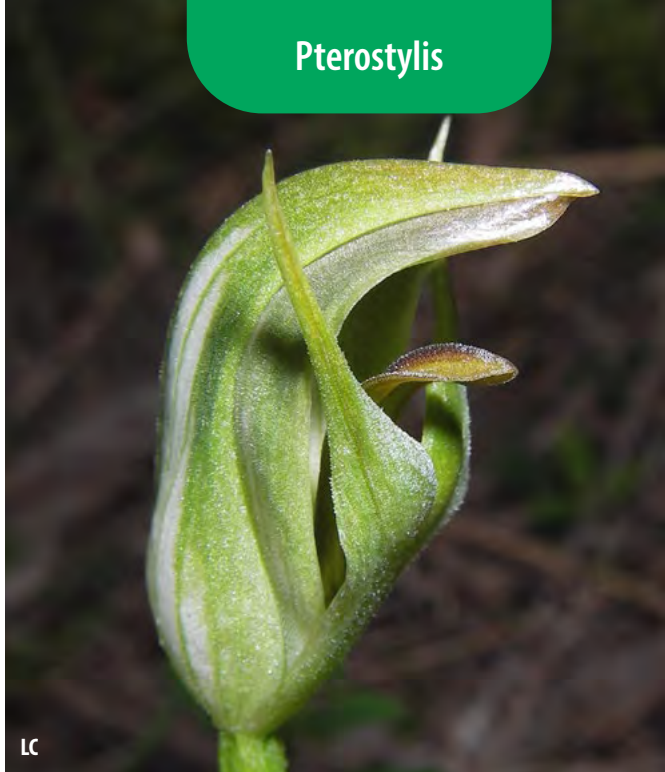


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Pterostylis



LC

Blunt greenhood

Pterostylis curta

Widespread and common from coastal regions to inland areas west of the dividing range, in a large variety of sheltered habitats including heath, grassy forest, wet sclerophyll forest and woodland. Sometimes grows in extensive colonies.

Semi-nodding flower.

JULY to OCTOBER

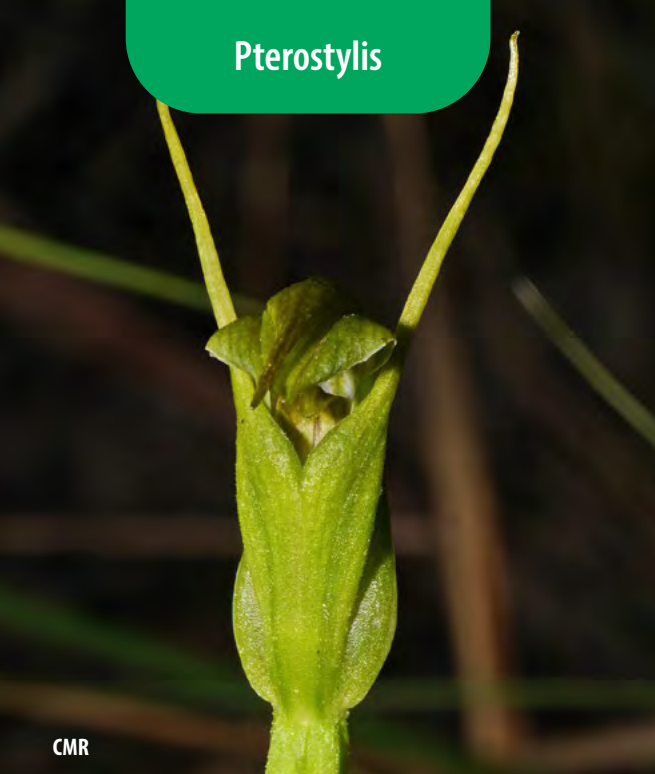


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Pterostylis



Slender greenhood

Pterostylis foliata

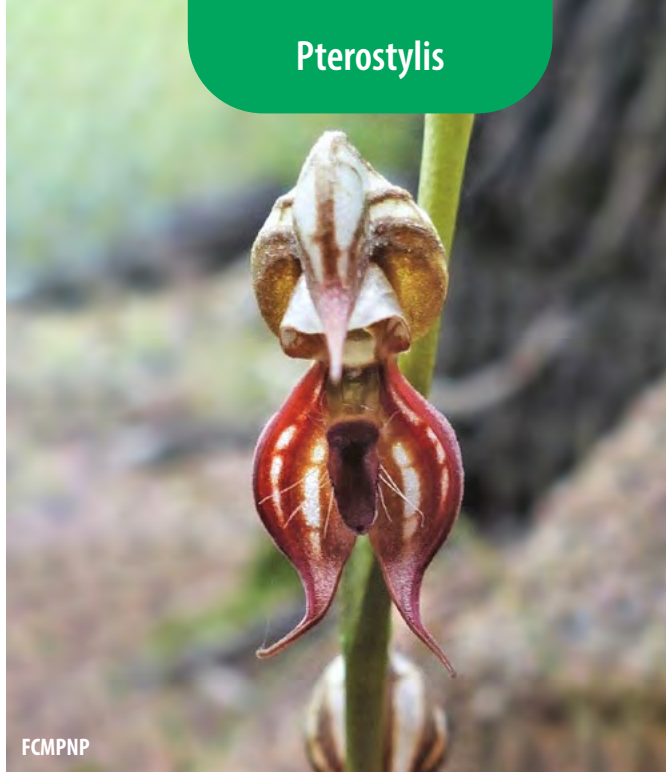


Grows in moist soils from lowlands to hilly montane areas in wet bogs, springs, grassy patches and swamp margins. In NSW the species occurs mainly in the Southern Tablelands south from Batlow.

Flower stiffly erect.



AUGUST to JANUARY



Pterostylis

Southern hooked rustyhood

Pterostylis hamata

Grows among shrubs, grasses and rocks on ridges and slopes in dry open forest, woodland and callitris forest often on rocky outcrops.

Up to 12 greenish brown flowers.

SYNONYM: *Oligochaetochilus hamatus*

SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



Pterostylis



Midget greenhood

Pterostylis mutica



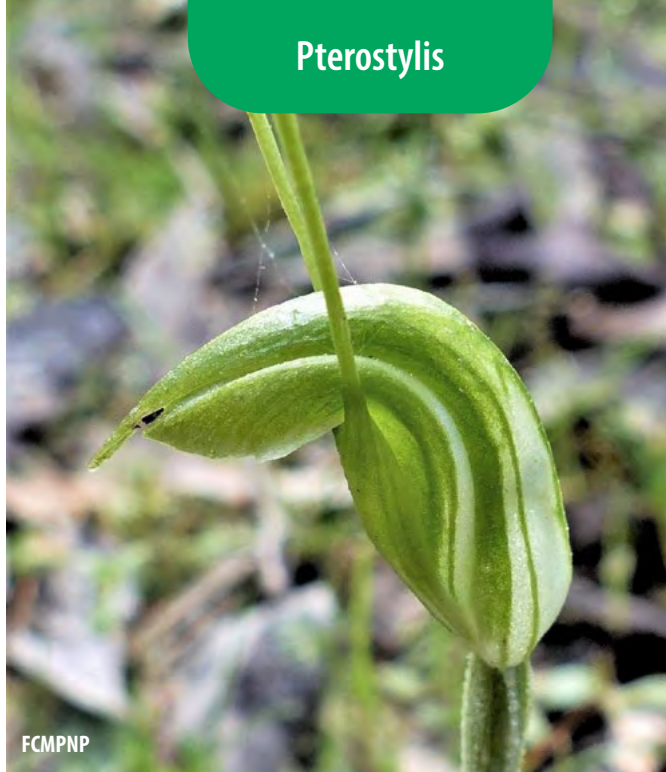
Widespread from mountain regions to inland plains. Grows in a variety of habitats, including grassy forest, callitris forest, mallee, woodland and grassland. Tolerant of dry conditions.

Up to 22 flowers, well-spaced along stem.

SYNONYM: *Hymenochilus muticus*



AUGUST to NOVEMBER



Pterostylis

Dwarf greenhood

Pterostylis nana

Grows mainly in sheltered sites from coastal areas to wetter inland regions in heath, open forest, woodland and mallee communities on well drained soils.

Flowers stiffly erect, short flower stem up to 150 mm tall.

SYNONYM: *Diplodium nanum*

JULY to OCTOBER



Pterostylis



Nodding greenhood

Pterostylis nutans



Wide distribution from coastal areas to inland regions growing in a variety of habitats including heath, grassy forest, wet sclerophyll forest, open forest and woodland, often in moist shaded areas. May form extensive colonies.

Flower is strongly nodding.



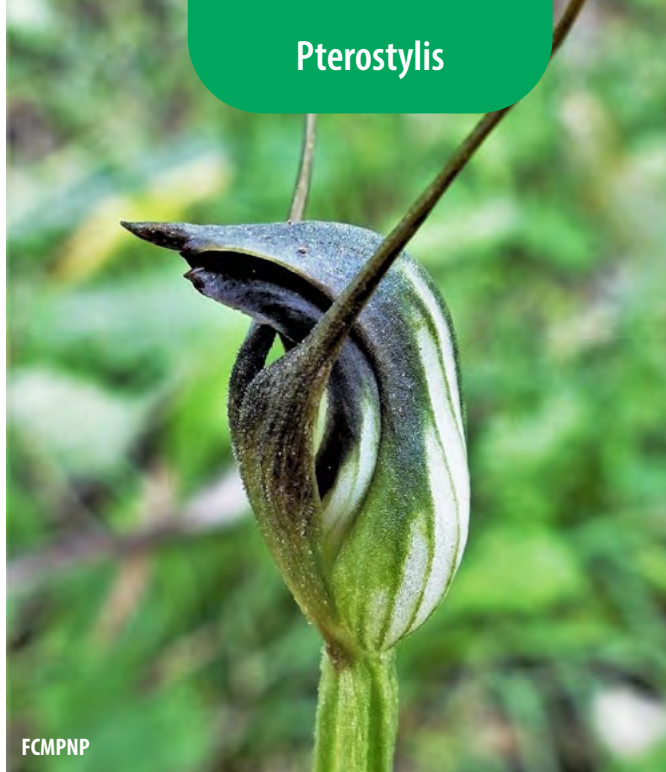
APRIL to OCTOBER



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Pterostylis

Maroonhood

Pterostylis pedunculata

Widespread and common from coast to ranges and montane areas. Favours moist conditions in sheltered, cool, shady sites such as slopes, gullies and riparian areas. Can be found in drier open sites. Can form dense colonies.

Single flower, green and white at base with tip tinged reddish brown to black.

JULY to NOVEMBER



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Pterostylis



Large autumn greenhood

Pterostylis revoluta



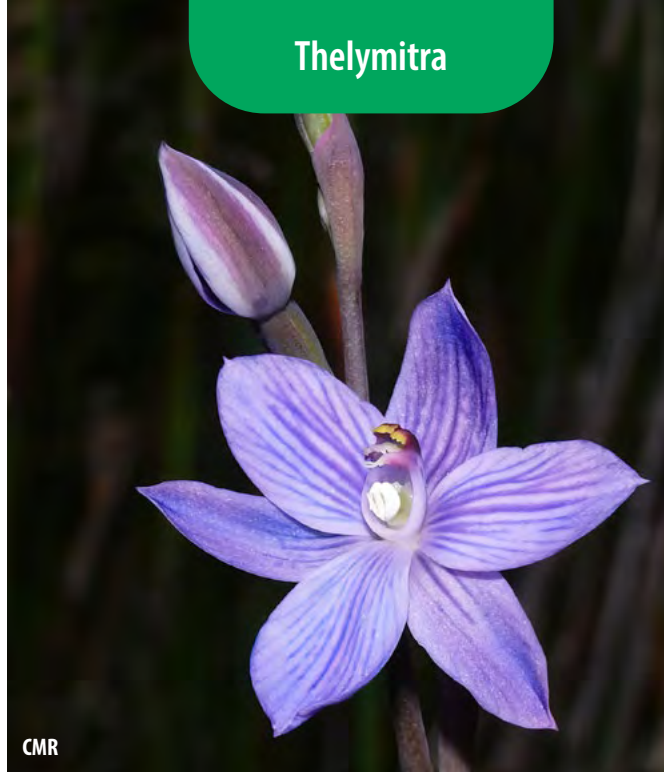
Grows on sheltered slopes from coastal regions to some inland sites in forest, coastal scrub and heathy forest.

Single flowers lean forward in a sickle shape.

SYNONYM: *Diplodium revolutum*



FEBRUARY to JUNE



Alpine sun orchid

Thelymitra alpicola

Grows in moist to wet sites in alpine and montane heathland, around edges of sphagnum bogs, drainage lines or in soaks and swamps. Mainly found at high altitude 1000-1500 m above sea level.

Vulnerable in NSW.

OCTOBER to JANUARY



Thelymitra



Peppertop sun orchid

Thelymitra brevifolia



Grows in a range of habitats including woodland, open forest and heathy forest. May colonise disturbed sites.

Flowers only open on hot days.



SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER



Thelymitra

Dotted sun orchid

Thelymitra ixioides

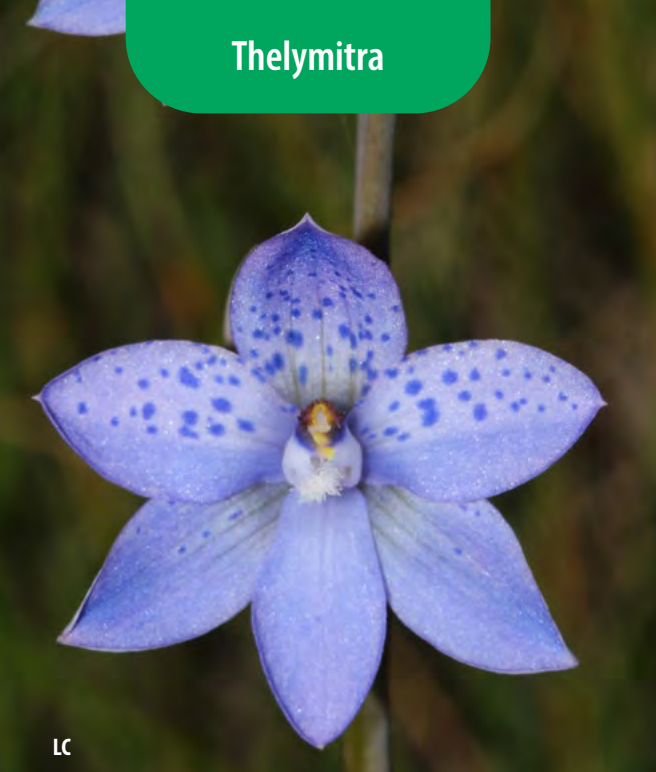
Widespread, extending from coastal areas to inland regions, growing in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, heathland and swamp margins.

Flower size and degree of spotting can vary. Up to 15 short-lived flowers opening on hot days. Similar to *T. juncifolia*, which has smaller and fewer flowers.

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER

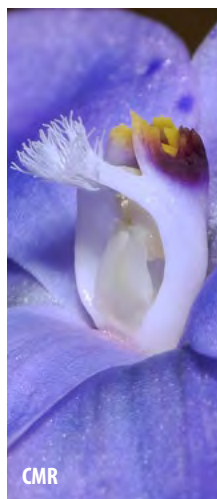


Thelymitra



Large-spotted sun orchid

Thelymitra juncifolia



Widespread, grows in a range of habitats including woodland, open forest, heathy forest and grasslands.

Up to 5 short-lived flowers, opening on hot days. Similar to *T. ixioides* but has fewer, smaller flowers with larger dark blue spots.



SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER



Thelymitra

Scented sun orchid

Thelymitra megcalyptra

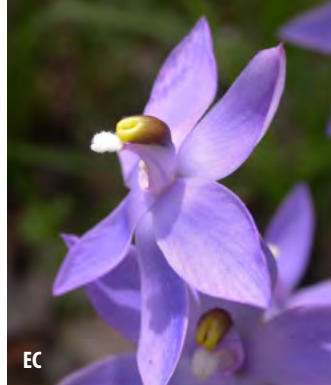
Grows mostly in drier inland habitats such as grassy woodland, box-ironbark forest and mallee shrubland on well drained soils, often forming large colonies.

Long-lived, insect pollinated flowers that are often scented.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER



Thelymitra



Plain sun orchid

Thelymitra nuda



Widespread and common from coastal regions where it grows in heathland and moist forests, to inland areas in grassy woodland. Sometimes forming extensive colonies.

Long-lived flowers opening on warm sunny days. Flowers sometimes scented.



OCTOBER to DECEMBER



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LC

Thelymitra

Slender sun orchid

Thelymitra pauciflora

Widespread and growing in a variety of habitats including open forest, woodland, grassland and heathland.

Short-lived, self-pollinating flowers that tend to only open on hot humid days.

AUGUST to NOVEMBER

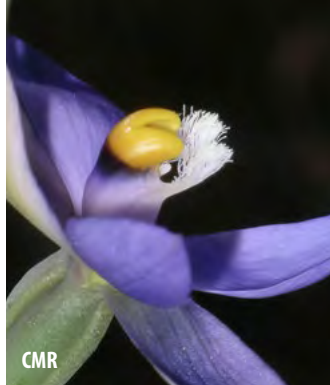


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Thelymitra



Trim sun orchid

Thelymitra peniculata



Widespread, grows in a range of habitats including woodland, open forest, heathland and grassland in free draining soil.

Self-pollinating flowers only open for a few hours on hot days.



SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER



FCMPNP



FCMPNP



LC

Thelymitra

Salmon sun orchid

Thelymitra rubra

Grows in a range of habitats including open forest, woodland, heathland and coastal scrub.

Flowers open on sunny, humid days.



FCMPNP

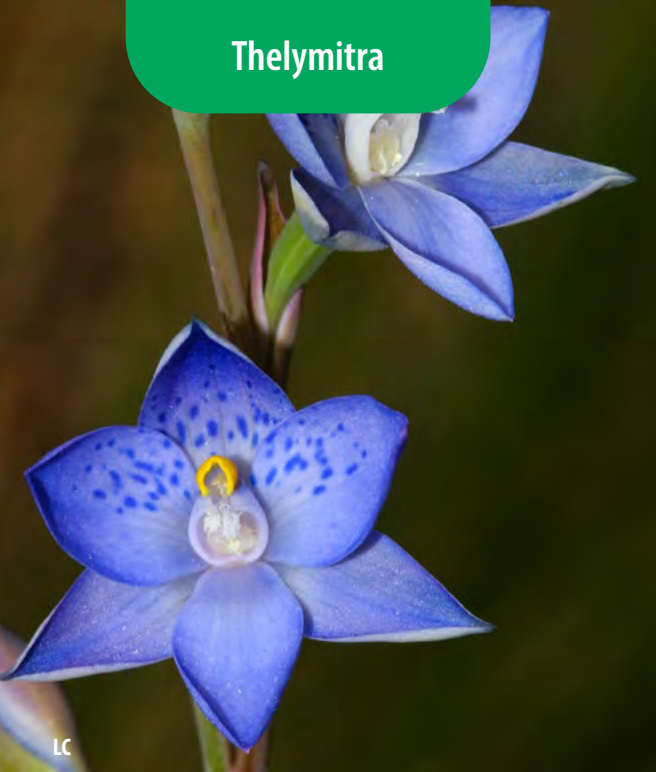


FCMPNP

AUGUST to DECEMBER



Thelymitra



Collared sun orchid

Thelymitra simulata



Grows in montane to subalpine areas on free draining soils between 800-1400m altitude.

Flowers may not open during cool cloudy weather.

CMR



NOVEMBER to JANUARY

What can you do to help wild orchids and their habitat?

- **Avoid soil disturbance** – a key threat to orchids is inadvertent damage from track maintenance (vehicle, bike and walking tracks).
- **Weed control** – annual exotic grasses, St John's wort and gazania will out-compete native orchids.
- **Manage herbivores** – newly germinated orchids are easily grazed out by native and introduced herbivores (rabbits, feral goats, kangaroos, livestock).
- **Avoid collecting wild orchid flowers or plant material** – please admire and take photos of wild orchids without picking flowers, digging up tubers or disturbing orchids and their habitat.

Further information

This booklet provides a general overview of the various types of orchids found in the Murray region. The books and websites listed below may assist with providing further information for species identification.

Websites and contacts of interest

- Atlas of Living Australia: ala.org.au
- PlantNet: plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au
- iNaturalist: inaturalist.org
- Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment: environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation: anpc.asn.au
- Australasian Native Orchid Society Inc.: anos.org.au
- Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park: friendsofchiltern.org.au

Reference books

Jones DL (2021) *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia*, 3rd ed, Reed New Holland Publishers Pty Ltd, Sydney.

Bishop A (2000) *Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria*, UNSW Press, Sydney.

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Local Land
Services

Jewels of the Bush Wild Orchids of the Murray Region