



Caladenia bartlettii

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, from Te Pahi to about the northern Waikato and Kaimai Ranges (exact southern limits as yet unclear)

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (0-500 m a.s.l.). Virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don.) Lindl.) forest where it grows in leaf litter, often near the bases of kauri trees. Also found in gumland scrub (but always in association with kauri remnants). Evidently relishes infertile soils.

Features*:

Terrestrial orchid usually occurring as solitary plants sometimes as small colonies of up to 10. All parts finely but sparsely eglandular hairy. Leaf solitary up to 200 x 2 mm long, narrow-linear, dark purple-green to reddish-green. Stem erect, slender somewhat wiry, up to 300 mm tall, sparsely eglandular-glandular hairy. Floral bracts 1(-2). Flowers 1(-2) up to 20 mm diameter, in lax racemes, perianth dark glazed mauve to magenta often fading to pink or white near flower centre. Sepals narrowly-elliptic to broadly elliptic, apex obtuse; dorsal sepal erect others spreading to somewhat deflexed. Labellum 3-lobed, marked with transverse dark pink to magenta bands, disc with 2 unequal lines of stalked callii, stalks dark pink to magenta, globular callus heads yellow, lateral lobes deeply cut; mid-lobe broadly triangular, recurved, margins irregular wavy, dark yellow, marginal callii absent. Column erect to slightly recurved, dark pink to magenta, often with 2-3 darker transverse, irregular bars, column wings distinctly broadening toward apex.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

November - February

Threats:

Caladenia bartlettii is apparently a rather sparsely distributed and naturally uncommon orchid. However, it is quite likely that the apparent rarity of this species is also in part due to its being overlooked for despite its colourful flowers it is not easily seen amongst the leaf litter in which it usually grows. A further issue is that there seems to be much confusion as to the correct application of the name with a number of unnamed segregates allied to *C. bartlettii* recognised by some New Zealand orchidologists.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 February 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - as *Caladenia bartlettii*.

References and further reading:

- Hopper, S.D.; Brown, A.P. 2004: Robert Brown's *Caladenia* revisited, including a revision of its sister genera *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella* and *Pheladenia* (Caladeniinae: Orchidaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 17: 1-240.
- Jones, D.L.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Clements, M.A. 1997: Three new species and a new combination in *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 221-229.
- Jones, D.L.; Clements, M.A.; Sharma, I.K.; Mackenzie, A.M. 2001: A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13: 389-419.
- Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.
- Rogers, R.S. 1924: *Petalochilus*: a New Genus of New Zealand Orchids. *Journal of Botany* 62: 65-67

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1106



Caption: On bank under manuka scrub, Plimmerton.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: On bank under manuka scrub, Plimmerton.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe