



Thelymitra hatchii

Common Name(s):

Hatch's Sun Orchid

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine (up to 1300 m a.s.l.). Only coastal in southern part of range. Favouring clay banks, gravel, and open clay pans. Often in short scrub or fringing peat bogs and tarns. Preferring well lighted places.

Features*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, forming dense colonies of 4-20 plants arising through vegetative extension. Plants dark reddish-green, stiffly erect, at flower up to 600 mm tall. Leaf solitary, erect, very fleshy to almost fleshy-coriaceous, deeply channelled and prominently ribbed longitudinally, 100-300 x 7-15 mm, dark reddish-green to reddish brown, broadly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, strongly v-shaped in cross section, distinctly keeled, base closely sheathing.

Inflorescence a (3-)6(-8)-flowered raceme borne on a dark reddish-green to reddish brown stout, wiry stem. Bracts 1-2(-3), foliaceous, closely-sheathing, fleshy, of similar colour to stem and leaf. Flower 15-20 mm diameter, usually pale to deep mauve sometimes pink, without stripes or spots. Sepals, petals and labellum fairly similar; sepals acutely elliptic, petals elliptic. Column robust, up to 8 mm tall, erect, sometimes with a small basal triangular process, initially white soon grading to dark mauve, then dark reddish brown near apex; post anther lobe tall, overtopping anther at least at sides, erect, truncate, more or less coarsely laciniate or denticulate but not thickened, inrolled or cucullate, sometimes obliquely forming a deep cleft at back, often terminating in two sharply acute points, usually dark red toward apex, margin more or less yellow; column arms terete to plano-convex in cross section; cilia copious, prominent, usually yellow to pale yellow, more rarely white or pink, arising from sides, back and top of arm, standing erect and overtopping post-anther lobe.

Flowering:

November - March

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened. Abundant throughout its range.

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1315



Caption: Hawkdun Range. January

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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