



## *Thelymitra nervosa*

### Common Name(s):

Spotted sun orchid, sun orchid

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

### Habitat:

Lowland to alpine (up to 1400 m a.s.l.). Mostly montane in northern part of range, extending to lowland area in the southern South Island, Stewart and Chatham Islands. In well lighted places within tall forest, scrub, tussock grassland or on more or less bare lava fields (Tongariro National Park).

### Features\*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, growing solitary or in colonies of 4-10 plants arising through vegetative extension. Leaf broad, channelled and deeply keeled, (60-)90(-260) x (8-)12(-20) mm. Plant at flowering up to 600 mm tall. Bracts 1-2(-3), foliaceous, closely-sheathing, fleshy, of similar colour to stem and leaf. Inflorescence a (1-)10-flowered raceme. Flowers up to 18 mm diameter, spreading, rarely widely spreading, segments dark to pale blue, mauve, pink or white usually with darker blue spotted petals, sometimes without spots. Sepals and petals alike, ovate-oblong, subacute more or less concave (cupped) resulting in a rounded appearance to the flower. Labellum slightly spatulate. Column erect, 3-6 mm tall, usually pale pink grading to dark purple near post-anther lobe; post-anther lobe extending well above anther-tip, initially dark purple and tuberculate above middle, margin yellow, narrowly hippocratiform, somewhat membranous with a finely denticulate apex, weakly cucullate.; column-arms terete to plano-convex in cross section; cilia copious, somewhat coarse, arising from sides, back and top of arm and mostly standing higher than post-anther lobe. Anther not thickened or incurved.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

November - April

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*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=1317](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1317)



**Caption:** Kaitoke, Upper Hutt. Nov 2012.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



**Caption:** Pinehaven, Upper Hutt.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe