



Acianthus sinclairii

Common Name(s):

Heart-leaved orchid, Pixie cap

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic, Present on Raoul (Kermadec Islands group), Three Kings Island group, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. In the South Island rare in the east south of Marlborough, extending to Fiordland in the west.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 1100 m a.s.l.). Usually in lightly shaded to heavily shaded shrubland and forest. Very rarely found in more open, sunny habitats. Often near streams or within seepages in forest.

Features*:

Diminutive perennial herb. Plants at flower up to 100 mm tall, often elongating further in seed. Stem erect, slender, hyaline suffused with red or purple. The single leaf sessile, inserted at about one half to one quarter up stem, 10-35 mm long, green sometimes mottled or flecked maroon, ovate, acuminate, base cordate. Raceme to 50 mm long. Floral bract small, membranous, foliaceous, green or green tinged with maroon, ovate. Flowers 1-10 not obviously scented; perianth 6-8 mm long, more or less erect, usually greenish, often purpled, with dull red on labellum. Sepals shortly and abruptly caudate; dorsal sepal broadly lanceolate to ovate, concave, arched over column; lateral sepal similar of similar length, linear-lanceolate. Petals shorter, lanceolate, acuminate. Labellum shorter than sepals, broad-ovate; apex acute and more or less recurved, often coarsely papillose; proximal portion deeply concave, bearing two rounded calli at base. Column shorter than labellum, without wings. Pollinia globose, 4 in each anther cell, more or less coherent, eventually breaking into tetrads of grains toward the end of flowering.

Flowering:

January - October

Fruiting:

April - December

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. Indigenous Tracheophyta - Monocotyledons except Graminae. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1449



Caption: Coromandel, June
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Kapiti Island. June 2005.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe