



Bulbophyllum tuberculatum

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South islands, from Kaitaia south to Wellington, and in Marlborough and North West Nelson. Probably more widespread than this as easily overlooked.

Habitat:

An epiphytic plant, usually found on trunks and inner branches of trees in lowland or coastal districts. Favoured trees seem to be matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia* (D. Don) de Laub.), kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (A. Rich.) de Laub.), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum* Lamb.), totara (*Podocarpus totara*), tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa* G. Benn.), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus* (J. R. Forst. et G. Forst.) Vahl) and rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa* R. Br.). It is always found with grey lichens of the genus *Rimelia* Hale et A. Fletcher, *Physcia* (Schred.) Michx., *Heterodermia* Trevis., and *Ramalina* Ach., and often threaded through the climbing fern *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* (Bory) Hovenkamp.

Features*:

Epiphytic orchid forming tightly clumped masses up to 60 mm diameter on canopy branches and trunks of forest trees. Roots numerous, threaded tightly through encrusting lichens and other epiphytic plants. Pseudobulbs conspicuous, 6-18 x 3-6 mm, green to dark green, ovoid to narrowly ovoid, turgid, smooth surface often spotted with white mealy cells. Apex surmounted by tightly clasping, much reduced scale leaf. Leaf appearing sessile, usually solitary (rarely 2), up to 50 x 5 mm, dark green to purple-green, linear-oblong, acute, glabrous. Flowers racemose, 1-several-flowered, peduncle 10-20 mm long arising from base of pseudobulb; floral bracts triangular, pedicels very short. Ovary minutely tuberculate. Perianth 4 mm long, all parts except labellum, white to whitish-pink. Dorsal sepal narrow-ovate; lateral similar but broader to triangular-ovate, slightly pouched at base. Petals smaller, ovate, obtuse. Labellum mobile on long slender claw; oblong-obovate to sub-hastate, orange to red, fading toward a yellow base; proximal part with 2 raised ridges, margins recurved at apex. Column short, 2-winged at apex. Capsules ovoid.

Flowering:

(September) - November - April

Fruiting:

November - August

Threats:

Probably quite common, but easily overlooked, and current records imply it is naturally sparse. There have been some documented instances where accessible populations have been stripped bare by plant collectors, which is probably the only serious threat to this species. For this reason it is better to use caution when disclosing new findings.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Anonymous. 1962. *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* Col. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 19: 1-2.

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

Moss, T.C. 1968. Notes on *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* (Orchidaceae). *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 35: 36-39

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=216



Caption: *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* on fallen Kauri bark flake at Opuawhanga

Photographer: Bill Campbell



Caption: Courtman Forest

Photographer: Peter de Lange