



Calochilus paludosus

Common Name(s):

Bearded Orchid

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. North and northern South Islands (North West Nelson to northern Westland). Present in Australia where it is very common

Habitat:

A species of disturbed habitats. It is usually found in open gumland scrub or pakihi, on clay pans or on road side banks. Also commonly encountered near geothermally active ground. Sometimes found amongst tussock grassland in upper montane situations.

Features*:

Slender to stout orchid 150-900 mm tall. Stem erect, light green to yellow-green (sometimes glaucous). Leaf fleshy, linear-lanceolate, yellow-green to green, channelled, sheathing at base apex acute. Cauline bracts similar but much shorter. Inflorescence a raceme of (1-)2(-4) flowers. Floral bracts narrow, acute, overtopping ovary. Perianth mostly green, except for bright reddish lamina and red to red-violet cilia of labellum (cilia copious, rather long). Dorsal sepal 10-15 mm long, broad-elliptic, acute, somewhat folded about column; lateral sepals similar though smaller. Petals shorter, obliquely deltoid, apex subacute, directed toward dorsal sepal, green finely striped with red. Labellum green suffused with red or purple, with a reddish apex, not much larger than sepals and petals; ligulate apex, bare rather long, tapering, straight; disc broad with dense long processes; base covered with numerous small, acute purple-red, maroon to red calli, and on each side of these are two short, erect, intramarginal greenish plate-like calli. Column wings with out basal glands or calli.

Flowering:

(September-) October-
December

Fruiting:

October -
February

Threats:

Habitat loss and plant collectors are the main threats to this attractive bearded orchid

***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.

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=227



Caption: *Calochilus paludosus*
Photographer: Ian St George



Caption: *Calochilus paludosus*
Photographer: Eric Scanlen