



## *Thelymitra carnea*

### Common Name(s):

pink sun orchid, early sun orchid

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North and South Islands. Mainly in the northern North Island south to about Taupo. Local around the southern North Island. Apparently absent in between. In the South Island confined to the northern and mainly western third.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 700 m a.s.l.). Mostly at low altitudes and favouring open clay pans, consolidated sand hollows, and geothermal ground. Sometimes on the margins of peat bogs. Most often in gumland scrub or other semi-permanent shrubland habitats where it is especially abundant after fire.

### Features\*:

Terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, late winter to early summer-green perennial herb, either solitary or in well-spaced groups. Plants mostly reddish-green, at flower 100-300 mm tall. Leaf solitary, wiry, distinctly flexuose, fleshy to subcoriaceous, 80.0-160.0 x 2.5-3.0 mm, dark green to reddish green, terete or semi-terete and shallowly channelled, apex often twisted, subacute, often frayed. Inflorescence a 1-8-flowered raceme. Flowers widely spaced, 8-14 mm diameter, segments to 8 x 4 mm, mostly pink, rarely cream or pale lemon yellow with the sepals darker coloured than the petals, without spots or stripes, scarcely opening or not, if opening only slightly spreading. Sepals and petals alike, broadly oblong. Labellum very slightly smaller. Column to 4 mm long, cream to pale pink or dark pink; column arms obliquely erect, more or less ovate, thick, fleshy, margins crenate or toothed, rarely with a few small spheroidal glands, otherwise without further ornamentation or cilia; post anther lobe almost as high as anther, erect, margins fleshy, unevenly thickened to very slightly cucullate, weakly notched, bright yellow. Anther not prominent.

### Flowering:

August - October

### Fruiting:

September - January

### Threats:

Not Threatened. However, it has declined from large parts of its range through habitat loss to taller forest or through urban development. Still abundant in the far north but if trends continue it may qualify in the not too distant future for some level of threat.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange (14 April 2007). Description adapted from Moore Edgar (1970).

### References and further reading:

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

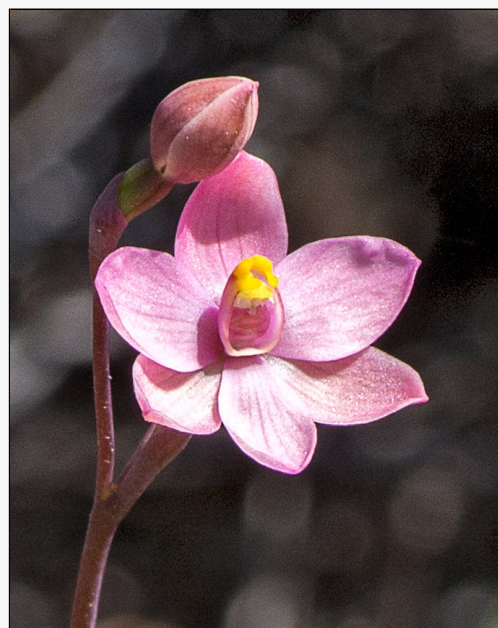
### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2270](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2270)



**Caption:** Te Paki, Northland.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



**Caption:** Te Paki, Northland.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe