



## *Thelymitra xdentata*

### **Common Name(s):**

hybrid sun orchid

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North and South Islands: sporadic in the North Island from the Waikato to Wellington; and in the South along portions of the West Coast. Uncommon.

### **Habitat:**

Coastal to montane areas (up to 800 m a.s.l.). In open shrubland, gumland vegetation, peat bogs and along ridge lines in mature forest. Always found in the vicinity of *T. longifolia* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst. and *T. pulchella* Hook.f. - the parents of this sporadically occurring hybrid.

### **Features\*:**

Robust terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, spring to summer-green perennial herb, solitary or growing in small colonies of 4-10 plants arising through vegetative extension. Plants at flower up to 600 mm tall. Stem robust, fleshy, erect 2.5-4.8 mm diameter. Leaf firmly fleshy to subcoriaceous, rather thick, erect to suberect, 80-200 x 10-20 mm, shallowly channelled. Inflorescence a (1-)6-flowered raceme. Flower 10-15 mm diameter, segments usually blue, lavender or pink, petals, labellum and dorsal sepals prominently striped with dark blue. Sepals and petals subsimilar, broad, slightly obovate. Labellum oblong-obovate. Column erect 6.5-8.0 mm tall, blue, lavender or pink; post-anther lobe taller than anther, slightly or prominently cucullate, and usually tuberculate towards apex, basal portion to mid section dark red grading to yellow toward apex; column-arms thickened about nerve, flanged about the base with delicate pinkish lobes, teeth or fimbriae, that mostly extend down the front margin of the column-wing; the arms bent inwards such that the cilia meet just above anther apex; cilia copious, in globose clusters, initially pale yellow maturing brown with age.

### **Flowering:**

November -  
January

### **Fruiting:**

Seed not produced (sterile  
hybrid)

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. A sterile hybrid which is listed here only because in the New Zealand Flora Series (Flora Vol. 2, Moore & Edgar 1970) it was regarded as a species. Further it is likely to be found wherever its parent species are sympatric, and so cause confusion unless a description is provided.

### **\*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=2358](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2358)



**Caption:** Tararua Forest Park. Dec 2007.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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