



Caladenia atradenia

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and northern South Island.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (0-1000 m a.s.l.). Favouring infertile substrates, especially clay podzols and pumice soils, where it may be found in the open or more usually in thick leaf litter under *Kunzea ericoides* (A.Rich.) Joy Thomps. and *Leptospermum scoparium* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst. shrubland, or in secondary regrowth. Also known from pine plantations and from geothermal areas in low scrub. Despite its colourful flowers its tendency to grow as solitary or small scattered, somewhat diffuse populations means that it is easily overlooked, even in sites where it is well known.

Features*:

Tuberous, terrestrial orchid growing as solitary plants or in small groups of 2-10 individuals, all vegetative parts markedly hairy. Leaf solitary, erect, 100-160 x 1-3 mm, narrowly linear, dark green to red-green; hairs sparse comprising mixtures of eglandular and glandular hairs up to 1 mm long. Scape 100-300 mm long, slender, somewhat wiry though brittle, reddish-green, covered with short hairs similar to those of leaf. Sterile bracts closely sheathing, 9-12 x 2-3 mm, narrowly obovate, subacute, abaxially hirsute. Floral bracts closely sheathing, 5-7 x 3 mm, oblong-elliptic to elliptic, abaxially hirsute. Flowers 1(-2), 20 mm diameter, dark green to dark reddish-green, usually marked with maroon or dark magenta, externally darker from numerous sessile ovoid glands; dorsal sepal strongly incurved over the column; lateral sepals spreading and erect (divergent); petals widely spreading, suberect, distally incurved. Dorsal sepal 7-10 x 2-3 mm, narrowly obovate, cucullate (hooded); apex apiculate. Lateral sepals 7-11 x 2-3 mm, asymmetrically lanceolate, falcate, acute to subobtusate. Petals 7-10 x 1.5-2 mm, narrowly oblanceolate, asymmetrical, falcate, acuminate. Labellum articulated on short claw, whitish with few, broad purple transverse bars; calli dark purplish-black, lamina 5-6 x 4-4.5 mm, ovate in outline when flattened, erect in proximal half the curved forwards, apex recurved, 3-lobed; lateral lobes 1.5 mm wide, erect, embracing column, entire; mid-lobe 2 mm long, recurved with 4-8 pairs of dark purplish-black linear, papillate marginal calli 0.3 mm long, irregular of shape, decrescent to the apex. Lamina calli in 2 irregular rows, extending well onto the mid-lobe; stalks whitish; heads dark purplish-black, papillate. Basal calli 2, 0.5 mm, subsessile to sessile; head more or less obovoid, curved. Longest calli 0.6 mm long; head 0.5 mm across, globose, papillate; stalk 0.3 mm long, slender. Distal calli subsessile to sessile, of irregular shape and arrangement. Column 5-6 x 2-2.5 mm, erect, incurved toward apex, greenish, spotted and blotched red, narrowly winged; central ridge 0.8 mm wide. Capsule 18-24 x 5-6 mm, green stripe with red, narrowly obovoid, very hairy.

Flowering:

August - December

Fruiting:

October - February

Threats:

Caladenia atradenia is a rather sparsely distributed and naturally uncommon orchid. However, it is quite likely that the apparent rarity of this species is also in part due to its being overlooked for despite its colourful flowers it is not easily seen amongst the leaf litter in which it usually grows. Nevertheless some populations have been lost due to weed invasions and land development.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 February 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - .

References and further reading:

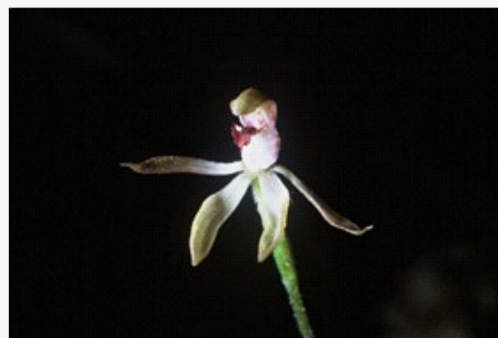
Hopper, S.D.; Brown, A.P. 2004: Robert Brown's *Caladenia* revisited, including a revision of its sister genera *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella* and *Pheladenia* (Caladeniinae: Orchidaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 17: 1-240.

Jones, D.L.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Clements, M.A. 1997: Three new species and a new combination in *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 221-229.

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For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=322



Caption: Stegostylis atradenia at Kennedy Bay (October)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Iwitihi Reserve 8/12/00

Photographer: Eric Scanlen