



Thismia rodwayi

Common Name(s):

Thismia

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand recorded only from the North Island where it has been reported from near the Hokianga Harbour, Waipoua and Trounson Forest, Hakarimata Range, Mt Pirongia, Te Kauri Scenic Reserve, Walter Scott Reserve, near Taumarunui, Taurewa, near Ketetahi Springs (Tongariro), Taurewa, and at Opepe Scenic Reserve. Easily overlooked. Present in Australia.

Habitat:

A saprophytic plant that has been found in coastal to montane forest and shrubland, where it usually grows in deep leaf litter near the base of trees. It has been found in association with a wide variety of tree and shrub species but most recent records come from cut over forest margins or regenerating forest.

Features*:

Saprophytic, reddish, pinkish or pinkish-white glabrous plant growing within deep leaf litter. Roots sparse, 1-1.5 mm diameter, branching at 10-20 mm intervals, with each fork producing an unbranched erect set 5-20 mm long. Scale leaves sparse, ovate, acute with the largest three just below flower, these 5 x 2 mm. Flower up to 20 mm long, solitary, terminal red, red-orange rarely white with orange striping. Perianth-tube 10 x 8 mm, turbinate, translucent; outer lobes 4 x 1 mm, narrow-triangular, erect or reflexed; inner lobes 4-5 x 2.5 mm, arching inwards and firmly connate above to form a mitre with broad fenestrae in its sides, the projecting keel of the inner lobe produced into a free appendage that varies in length. Stamens pendent from short, usually red annulus; free filaments short, incurved; anthers broader and connate into a pale tube that reaches halfway down perianth-tube; pollen sacs small, widely separated; connectives delicately membranous and elaborately lobed. Nectaries 6, below anthers, each lying on the line of junction of 2 adjacent connectives and enclosed within a membranous pouch. Ovary short-turbinate, 1.5 x 2 mm, upper surface concave; style stout, 1 mm.; stigmas truncate-obovate, bilobed; ovules with long funicles, crowded on stalked placentae. Fruit fleshy, the upper portion becoming chartaceous and transparent at maturity to expose numerous brown seeds.

Flowering:

November - February

Fruiting:

December - March

Threats:

An apparently naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. However, it is extremely small, usually occurring partially buried in leaf litter, and so it is often mistaken for a fungus. It is probably more overlooked than it is truly uncommon. This species is often found by accident in leaf litter.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1961).

References and further reading:

Bell, R. 1971. *Thismia rodwayi* at Pirongia. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 37: 67

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

Steele, R.H. 1966. Note on the occurrence of *Thismia Rodwayi* F. Muell. at Taurewa, North Island, New Zealand. Tuatara 14 (3)

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=328



Caption: *Thismia rodwayi*

Photographer: J.C. Greenwood



Caption: *Thismia rodwayi*

Photographer: Peter de Lange