



Chiloglottis trapeziformis

Common Name(s):

Dainty Bird Orchid, Ant Orchid

Current Threat Status (2012):

Non Resident Native - Vagrant

Distribution:

Indigenous. North Island. Formerly known from pine forest near Hoki Beach, Levin, on the Horowhenua Coast. That population was destroyed following logging. However, plants were rescued and planted nearby by people skilled in orchid management.

Habitat:

Known naturally in New Zealand from a coastal pine plantation near Hoki, Levin where it was discovered in 2001. Here it grew in several patches in dense drifts of semi-rotted pine needles. This population was destroyed in 2003 by logging, it is now regarded as extinct there. Plants were moved to other parts of the country - their exact fate is unknown.

Features*:

Terrestrial orchid forming dense clonal masses within deep, partially rotted leaf litter, in shaded pine plantation forests. Flowering plants 70-140 mm tall. Leaves sessile to shortly petiolate, 22-55 x 7-20 mm, dark green to red-green, narrow-oblong to elliptic. Flower solitary on a long peduncle held well above foliage; brownish-green or reddish; dorsal sepal 10-13 mm long, erect, incurved, spatulate, with prominent apical point; lateral sepals 9-12 mm, spreading, often recurved, divergent, linear-lanceolate; petals deflexed against ovary, 11 mm long, broadly linear, somewhat asymmetric. Labellum on long claw, 10 mm long, erect, broadly rhombic, angular, apex obtuse; calli dark black, glossy, aggregated at base of expanded part of labellum and on common stout stalk, bearing two elongate compound calli usually at distal and apical ends of main calli cluster, the distal calli projected out from main cluster; tiny calli irregularly scattered on claw. Column with upper 1/2 broadly winged, the rounded wing apices positioned higher than the anther. Capsule rarely produced in New Zealand, few seen narrowly ellipsoid 5-10 mm long, terminal on greatly elongated peduncle.

Flowering:

July-
December

Fruiting:

November - February (rarely
produced in New Zealand)

Threats:

By 2003 there were no natural populations of this species left in New Zealand. The only known population was destroyed because the site it had appeared in was a privately owned pine forest due to be logged. This species is abundant in Australia. It has been planted by New Zealand Native Orchid Group members in several North Island locations. The fate of these plantings is as yet unknown. This species does not readily set seed in New Zealand because its insect-pollination vector is apparently absent.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description from de Lange et al. (2007).

References and further reading:

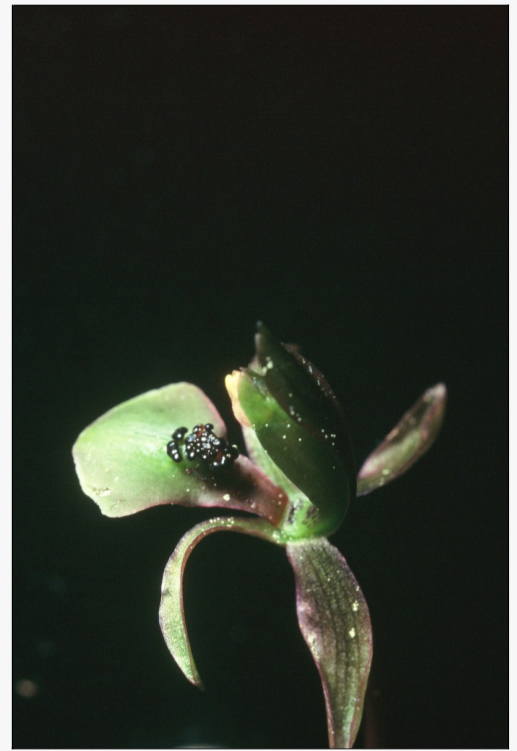
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Miller J.T.; Clements, M.A. 2014: Molecular phylogenetic analyses of Drakaeinae: Diurideae (Orchidaceae) based on DNA sequences of the internal transcribed spacer region. *Australian Systematic Botany* 27: 3-22.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=709



Caption: Hoki, Waitakere State Forest

Photographer: J.E. Braggins



Caption: Photo by Ian St George

Photographer: Ian St George