



Caleana minor

Common Name(s):

Flying Duck Orchid

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. North Island. formerly known from the vicinity of Kaitaia and around the shore line of Lake Rotorua. Currently known from one site near Whakarewarewa geothermal field, Rotorua.

Habitat:

The only known New Zealand habitat for this orchid is within open mossy sites, bare clay and shallow leaf litter under low, open *Kunzea tenuicaulis* dominated shrubland near geothermally active ground.

Features*:

Dark reddish-green plant forming small colonies of 2-10 plants; at flowering up to 200 mm tall, usually with leaf withered. Stems slender, somewhat wiry, terete, dark red-green to wine-red, smooth. Leaf 90 x 3 mm, narrowly linear, deeply channelled, withering early. Inflorescence a open 1-3(-7)-flowered raceme. Flowers yellowish-green to reddish brown (labellum dark red-brown to black). Perianth segments to 10 mm long, linear, channelled, margins inrolled, apices acute. Dorsal sepal up to 8 mm long, linear-spathulate, down curved close to column; lateral sepals obliquely down curved, divergent, fused basally to column foot; petals incurved against column wings. Labellum-claw irritable, 5 mm long, strap-like, broad, smooth, curved with its connective toward column (extremely sensitive to touch); labellum lamina 6 x 4 mm, bifid, prolonged into a triangular pointed process with a flattened duckbill-shaped (hollow beneath) process; this spurred on either side; centre inflated and hollow, upper surface covered with dark black, glossy, somewhat tuberculate calli except near base. Column at right angles to ovary, almost as long as petals, very broadly petaloid winged, with wings extending from the base to apex to form an upwardly directed, patent cup.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

December - February

Threats:

Seriously at risk of extinction through human modification of its habitat, which is on private land administered as a tourist attraction. Aside from the potential risk of loss through gross habitat modification, this orchid is threatened by insect and wallaby browsing and the constant risk of plants being removed by plant collectors. The species is currently managed by one individual who carefully guards this species from these threats. *Caleana minor* is abundant in Australia.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Blaxell, D.F. 1972: *Arthrochilus* F.Muell. and related genera (Orchidaceae) in Australia. *Contributions from the New South Wales National Herbarium* 4: 275-283.

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Jones, D.L.; Clements, M.A. 2005: Miscellaneous Nomenclatural Notes and Changes in Australian, New Guinea and New Zealand Orchidaceae. *The Orchadian* 15: 33-42.

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.

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=716



Caption: Close up of flower
Photographer: Eric Scanlen,
November, Whakarewarewa



Caption: Sullivania minor plant
Photographer: Eric Scanlen,
November, Whakarewarewa