



## Bayonet Spider-orchid *Caladenia gladiolata* Endangered

### Description

*Caladenia gladiolata* is an annual, terrestrial orchid. It has a single hairy leaf (3-15 cm long) that emerges in winter. It produces a single flower stem in Aug-Sept (8-20 cm tall) with one or two flowers. The flowers are greenish yellow, with a maroon tipped lip (labellum) that is curled under. The petals and sepals (1-3 cm long) have brown bayonet-shaped clubs on the tips and red central stripes.



Flower of *Caladenia gladiolata*.

J. Quarmby

### Habitat

*C. gladiolata* grows in *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (South Australian Blue Gum) woodland, often with *E. cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum) or *E. fasciculosa* (Pink Gum). The understorey includes *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle), *Cassinia laevis* (Inland Cassinia), *Syridium parvifolium* (Dusty Miller) and *Astroloma humifisum* (Native Cranberry).

*C. gladiolata* usually grows on moderate to steep slopes in sandy loam soils with scattered shale and quartzite.



Typical habitat of *Caladenia gladiolata*.

J. Quarmby

### Distribution and abundance

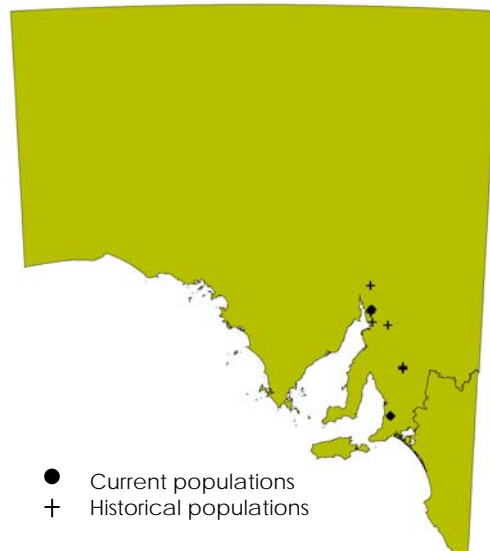
*C. gladiolata* is endemic to South Australia and is currently known from 4 populations in the southern Flinders Ranges, and the Mount Lofty Ranges. It has a fragmented range extending from Scott Creek in the south to Mount Remarkable in the north.

The population size of *C. gladiolata* was estimated to be approximately 1200 mature plants in 2007. The largest populations are in Mount Remarkable National Park.

### Conservation Rating

*C. gladiolata* is listed as nationally **Endangered** under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Distribution of *Caladenia gladiolata* in South Australia.



● Current populations  
+ Historical populations

## Threats



Climate Change



Weed Invasion



Road Management



Herbivory



Recreation



Lack of Recruitment



Phytophthora



Illegal Collection

*C. gladiolata* is under particular threat from herbivory by kangaroos, rabbits, hares, and invertebrates. It is also threatened by weed invasion, especially *Erica* and *Salvation Jane*. Lack of pollination and recruitment is also a serious threat.

## Recovery Actions

*C. gladiolata* is included a recovery plan for 12 threatened orchids in the Lofty Block region, which outlines strategies and actions for species recovery, including:

- Monitoring population size and trends.
- Surveying historical and potential habitat for populations.
- Mitigating the threats to populations (eg weed control, caging, rabbit control *etc*).
- Protecting and managing habitat (eg protecting land under Heritage Agreements, fencing *etc*).
- Collecting and preserving seed and mycorrhizal fungi.
- Preparing and implementing translocation proposals.
- Undertaking research related to the ecology and biology of the species.
- Informing, encouraging and supporting landholders and the community.

## How you can help

If you think you have seen *C. gladiolata* please report it to the Department for Environment and Heritage (see contacts below).

You can also volunteer your time to assist with surveys, monitoring, weed control, fencing, and other recovery actions for the species.



Group of *Caladenia gladiolata* plants. J. Quarmby

## Further reading

Quarmby J.P (2006) *Recovery plan for 12 threatened orchids in the Lofty Block region of South Australia 2007-2012*. Department for Environment and Heritage, Adelaide.

Bickerton, D. (2002) *Recovery plan for Caladenia gladiolata*. Department for Environment and Heritage.

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

## For Further information please contact

Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Project Officer  
Department for Environment and Heritage

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Australian Government

Threatened Plant Action Group



Native Orchid Society of South Australia