

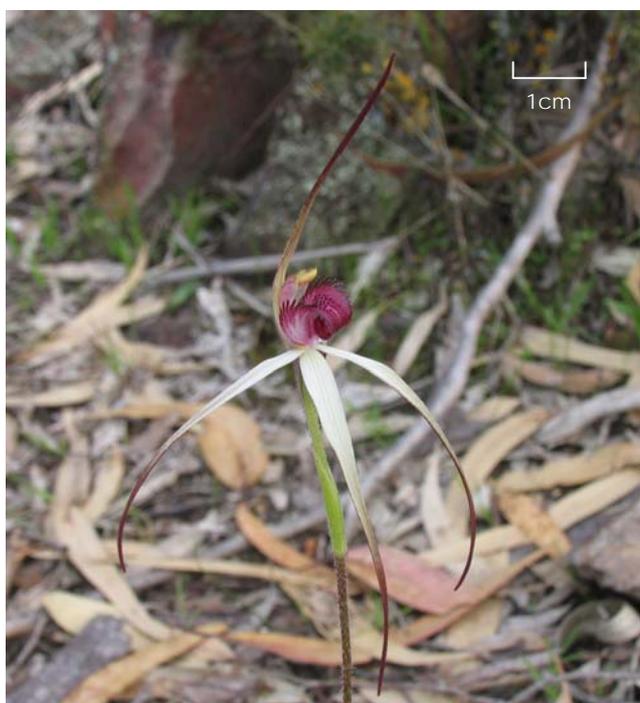


Pink-lipped Spider-orchid *Caladenia behrii*

Endangered

Description

Caladenia behrii is an annual, terrestrial orchid. It has a single hairy leaf (5-10 cm long) that emerges in winter. It produces a single flower stem in Aug-Sept (20-60 cm tall) with one or two flowers. The flowers are creamy white, with a pinkish-red lip (labellum) that is curled under. The petals and sepals (5-8 cm long) have red glandular tips that produce a strong musky fragrance.



Flower of *Caladenia behrii*.

J. Quarmby

Habitat

C. behrii grows in *Eucalyptus* woodlands, often with *E. leucoxylon* (South Australian Blue Gum) and *E. goniocalyx* (Long-leafed Box). The understorey usually includes *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* (Mount Lofty Grass-tree), *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle), and *Hibbertia exutiacies* (Guinea-flower).

It usually grows on the upper slopes and crests of moderate to steep hills in sandy loam soils.



Typical habitat of *Caladenia behrii*.

D. Bickerton

Distribution and abundance

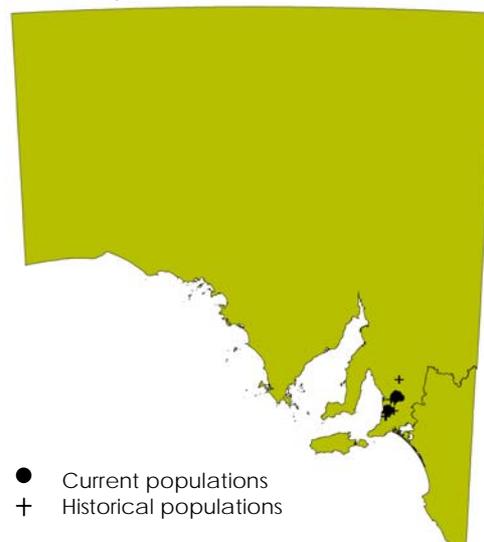
C. behrii is endemic to South Australia and is currently known from over 30 populations in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges. Its range extends from Scott Creek in the south to Kersbrook in the north.

The population size of *C. behrii* was estimated to be approximately 3000 mature plants in 2007. Many populations are small and in decline. The largest populations are in the Kersbrook region.

Conservation Rating

C. behrii is listed as nationally **Endangered** under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It has a restricted and declining distribution, and many of its populations are small, isolated and under threat.

Distribution map of *Caladenia behrii* in South Australia



- Current populations
- + Historical populations

Threats



Climate Change



Weed Invasion



Road Management



Herbivory



Recreation



Lack of Recruitment



Phytophthora



Illegal Collection

C. behrii is under particular threat from herbivory by kangaroos, rabbits, hares and possums. It is also threatened by weed invasion especially Boneseed, Pine and Blackberry. Lack of pollination and recruitment is also a threat to some populations.

Recovery Actions

C. behrii is included in 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 Agreement, 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. behrii* 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.



Unusual white form of *Caladenia behrii* 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. (1999) *Recovery plan for Pink-lip Spider-orchid*. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia.

www.environment.sa.gov.au

For Further information please contact

Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Project Officer
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