



**PLANT**

***Caladenia ovata***

**Kangaroo Island Spider-orchid**

| AUS | SA | AMLR | Endemism | Life History |
|-----|----|------|----------|--------------|
| V   | E  | E    | State    | Perennial    |

Family *ORCHIDACEAE*



Photo: © Malcolm Houston

**Conservation Significance**

Endemic to SA. The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.<sup>4</sup>

There are potential taxonomic issues with this species.<sup>3</sup>

**Description**

Spider-orchid to 25 cm high. Leaf to 7 cm long, erect, hairy. Slender, hairy flower stem. One, rarely two flowers, mainly red and yellow to 3 cm across. No fragrance.<sup>2,6</sup>

Synonym: *Arachnorchis ovata*.<sup>5</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

Occurs on Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island (Willoughby et al. 2001).<sup>2,6</sup>

Pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate historic and current distributions restricted to Deep Creek CP.<sup>4</sup>

**Habitat**

Found in rough scrubby heath and woodland, on lateritic soils.<sup>2</sup> Recorded growing on sandy soils on a western facing upper slope (Davies 1986). Occurs in *Eucalyptus baxteri* tall shrubland and tall open-

shrubland with an understorey of *Lepidosperma semiteres*, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Pultenaea involucreta* and *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* (Davies 1986).<sup>6</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland and Shrubland.<sup>4</sup>

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.<sup>4</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Flowers from September to October.<sup>6</sup>

Regenerates after fire and responds to some site disturbance (R. Bates *pers. comm.*; Davies 1986).<sup>6</sup>

Pollinators have not been observed but pollination is probably by thynnid wasps.<sup>2</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in south-west Ngarrindjeri Nation.<sup>4</sup>

Tubers of *Caladenia* spp. are recorded as a traditional Aboriginal food source in the eastern states (Flood 1980).<sup>1</sup>

**Threats**

Threats include weed invasion and habitat fragmentation.<sup>6</sup>

Altered fire regimes including the lack of fire is a potential threat as it needs fire to induce regeneration. Lack of pollinators will affect recruitment. Grazing is a threat during the growing season (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Very limited within the AMLR region, however the majority of its known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.<sup>4</sup>

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

**Further information:**

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



Government  
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# ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

## Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>4</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

## References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Australian National Botanic Gardens (2007). *Aboriginal Plant Use - NSW Southern Tablelands*. Available from <http://www.anbg.gov.au/apu/index.html> (accessed August 2007).

2 Bates, R. J., ed. (2007). *South Australian Native Orchids. Electronic version, August 2007*. Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

3 Department for Environment and Heritage. (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Expert Flora Workshop, Unpublished Notes*. Participants: Bickerton, D., Croft, T., Jury, T., Lang, P., Prescott, A., Quarmby, J. and Smith, K., Adelaide.

4 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

5 Jones, D. L. (2006). *A complete guide to native orchids of Australia including the island territories*. New Holland Publishers, Australia.

6 Taylor, D. A. (2003). *Recovery plan for 15 nationally threatened plant species on Kangaroo Island, South Australia*. Department for Environment & Heritage, South Australia.

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