



PLANT

Pterostylis falcata

Sickle Greenhood

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family *ORCHIDACEAE*



Photo: © Ken Bayley

Conservation Significance

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'.⁴

Critically endangered in SA.²

Description

Large-flowered terrestrial greenhood with a curved hood which resembles a sickle. Leaves four to six in a loose rosette, to 8 cm long. Flower stem to 30 cm tall with several stem bracts. Flower single rather large and elongate, green and white with a bulge at the base of the sickle shaped hood.²

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in QLD, NSW, ACT and VIC. In SA occurs in SL, KI and SE regions.⁵ More common in eastern Australia.²

In the AMLR, known from Higgs Swamp (2002) near Myponga, however the provenance is uncertain (may be planted) (R. Bates *pers. comm.*). Last

definite plants recorded from Scott Creek CP (Author's note: not mapped below, data unavailable).

There are no pre-1983 records.⁴

Habitat

Occurs on fertile black acid soils of swamps and creek beds in shaded places, often flowering only when the creeks begin to dry out in late spring-summer. Rosettes may be covered by a metre of often fast flowing water in winter.²

At Almanda Creek, Scott Creek CP, occurs along edge of *Leptospermum lanigerum* (+/-) *Acacia provincialis* swamp (T. Jury *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.⁴

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Very High'.⁴

Biology and Ecology

Flowers from November to January.² Hybridises with *Pterostylis nutans* and *P. cucullata*.^{2,5} All known pollinators of the *Pterostylis* genus are male insects of the fungus gnat and mosquito family.⁵

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Kurna Nation.⁴

Species of Orchidaceae are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The small tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).¹

Threats

Has become exceedingly rare in SA due to loss of habitat (vegetation clearance), Blackberry infestation, increased salinity (in relation to Kangaroo Island populations) and stock trampling.² In the AMLR, weeds, in particular Blackberries, are a significant threat. Competition from Coral Fern and *Leptospermum sp.* also poses a threat (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009). Other potential threats include site disturbance, recreational impacts, drought and climate change, reduced water quality, and rubbish dumping.³

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

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
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<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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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



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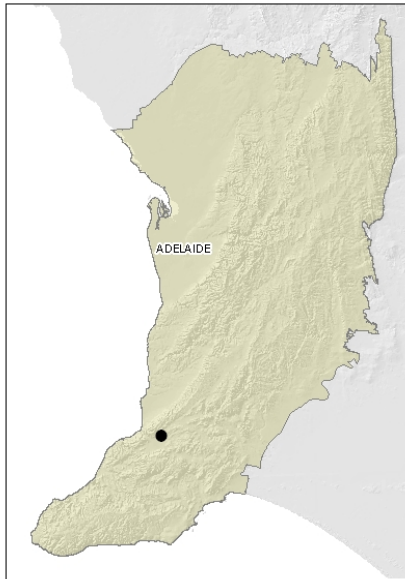


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
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Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁴ 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.

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