Common native orchids of the Adelaide Hills

Native orchids are a very important part of our environment and there are over 250 described species in South Australia. They are delicate and have a special role in ecosystems. Much like frogs can tell us if water is healthy, orchids can tell us if an area of native vegetation is healthy. Some are very rare and often rely on a single insect for their survival (as they need them for pollination to produce seed). Orchids come in all shapes and sizes with some looking like spiders and even donkeys. When walking, we need to be careful not to step on orchids; being small they can be hard to see but this identification chart will help you recognise and protect them.

### Pollinator
- Native bee
- Native wasp
- Native fly
- Self-pollinated
- Ant
- Unknown

### Leaf type
- Round or heart-shaped leaf, flat on ground
- Leathery stem or a rosette (cluster) without flowers
- Tubular leaf like a chive or onion
- Rosette (cluster) of leaves spreading from a central point on the ground
- Single upright grass-like leaf
- Two or more upright grass-like leaves
- Wide flat leaf growing at an angle from the ground

### Common Midge Orchid
- *Genoplesium rufum* (Corunastylis sp. Adelaide Hills)
  - Grows to 10 cm. Several tiny green and reddish brown flowers pointing downwards. Green leaf is thin and tightly wrapped around stem. Pollinated by a Midge Fly.

### Parson’s Bands
- *Eriochilus curvatus* (Eriochilus sp. Hills Woodland)
  - Grows to 20 cm. Usually one flower, sometimes two to three, with two white sepals pointing downwards. Leaf is green to black, covered in rough short hairs, and appearing after the flower has finished.

### Mosquito Orchid
- *Acianthus pusillus*
  - Grows to 15 cm. Several tiny dark red or maroon flowers in the shape of large mosquitoes. Pale green heart-shaped leaf, maroon underneath. Grows in colonies.

### Blood Greenhood
- *Pterostylis sanguinea* (chrochilus sanguineus)
  - Grows to 25 cm. One to two reddish flowers with a distinctive rectangular-shaped labellum. Doll green leaves are round and flat, like a plate, green underneath. Grows in colonies. The flower is similar to the spring-flowering *C. robusta* which has a heavily veined blue-green leaf.

### Winter Gnat Orchid
- *Cyrtostylis robusta*
  - Grows to 25 cm. Large green and reddish hooded flower with long curved antenna-like petals. Green leaves grow either flat on ground in rosette with no flower stem; or no rosette but leaves along the flower stem. Grows in colonies.

### Mayfly Orchid
- *Pterostylis robusta* (Diplodium robustum)
  - Grows to 10 cm. One to several green to maroon and white-striped hooded flowers. Labelled (tongue) readily flicks up. Green leaves grow either flat on ground in rosette with no flower stem; or no rosette but orange tipped leaves on flower stem.

### Mosquito Orchid
- *Genoplesium rufum*
  - Grows to 10 cm. Several tiny green and reddish brown flowers pointing downwards. Green leaf is thin and tightly wrapped around stem. Pollinated by a Midge Fly.

### Nodding Greenhood
- *Eriochilus nutans*
  - Grows to 15 cm. Several tiny dark red or maroon flowers in the shape of large mosquitoes. Pale green heart-shaped leaf, maroon underneath. Grows in colonies.

### Mosquito Orchid
- *Corybas diemenicus* (Corysanthes diemenica)
  - Grows to 20 cm. Large green and white-striped hooded flower with long curved antenna-like petals. Green leaves grow either flat on ground in rosette with no flower stem; or no rosette but leaves along the flower stem. Grows in colonies.

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### Maroon-hood
- *Cyrtostylis robusta*
  - Grows to 25 cm. Several reddish flowers with long thin sepals in the shape of Mayfly tails. Green leaf is heart-shaped with crinkled edges, maroon underneath. Grows in colonies.

### Winter Gnat Orchid
- *Cyrtostylis robusta*
  - Grows to 25 cm. One to two reddish flowers with a distinctive rectangular-shaped labellum. Doll green leaves are round and flat, like a plate, green underneath. Grows in colonies. The flower is similar to the spring-flowering *C. robusta* which has a heavily veined blue-green leaf.

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Common names used as per South Australia’s Native Orchids DVD (2011) by the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. Botanical names used are those accepted by the SA Herbarium. Where there are two botanical names listed, the brackets indicate the names used as per the DVD. Names are subject to change and may vary in field/electronic guides as a result. For more information on taxonomic names, refer to the Census of South Australian Vascular Plants (www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge_Bank/Information_data/Census_of_SA_plants_algae_fungi). The calendar for each species represents the times when it can normally be found in flower in the Adelaide Hills.
Dwarf Greenhood

**Pterostylis nana** (Liguella nana)

Grows to 30 cm. One to several pink flowers with four "petals" pointing forward and one pointing upwards. Leaf is short and narrow with a fold along the middle.

Veined Spider Orchid

**Caladenia reticulata** (Arachnorchis reticulata)

Grows to 30 cm. Usually one pale yellow flower with red stripes. Flower shaped like a spider. The labellum (tongue) in the middle of the flower is mainly red and has distinctive red teeth along its edge. The green leaf is long and narrow with very long hairs.

Pink Fingers

**Caladenia camesus**

Grows to 25 cm. One to four pale pink flowers with four "petals" pointing forward and one pointing upwards. Green leaf is short and narrow with a fold along the middle.

Wallflower Donkey Orchid

**Diplura orientis**

Grows to 45 cm. One to several yellow flowers with red-brown or purple markings with two large distinctive petals shaped like donkey ears. Green leaves are long and thin. Grows in colonies.

Purple Cockatoo

**Glossodia major**

Grows to 30 cm. Usually one purple to white flower with five "petals". On warm days has a faint sweet perfume. The middle of the flower looks like a cockatoo’s beak. Always has a spot of yellow in the middle of the 'beak'. Pale green leaf is a narrow oblong with very short hairs.

Sand Hill Onion Orchid

**Microtis arenaria**

Grows to 60 cm. Several tiny greenish flowers, with a fragrant perfume. Leaf is green, narrow and tubular like those of a chive or onion. It can grow in a variety of places including coastal sand hills.

Common Pink Sun Orchid

**Thelymitra rubra**

Grows to 30 cm. One to several red and white flowers that turn black when finished flowering. Leaves are abundant, large round to oval. Young leaves have maroon spots. Grows in colonies. Flowers are only common after fires.

King Spider Orchid

**Caladenia leptochila** (Arachnorchis leptochila)

Grows to 45 cm. One to two red and green flowers with all of the "petals" pointing upwards to resemble the shape of a spider. The maroon labellum (tongue) in the middle of the flower is narrow, dark red and without any teeth. Green leaf is long with short and long silky hairs.

Great Sun Orchid

**Thelymitra grandiflora**

Grows to one metre. Several blue or mauve sweet-scented flowers that open on warm sunny days. Leaf is leathery and pale green with a powdery appearance. Largest of the sun orchids in the Adelaide Hills.

Narrow Lipped Spider Orchid

**Caladenia leptochila** (Arachnorchis leptochila)

Grows to 45 cm. One to several green, often red-veined flowers with a purple beard. There are two red sham eyes immediately above the beard. Leaf is green or reddish-green and folded into a distinctive V-shape. Grows in different places from woodlands to swamp edges.

South African Weed Orchid

**Calochilus robertsonii**

Grows to 60 cm. Small hooded-like flower with a red beak. Leaf is short and wide. The labellum (tongue) always has pink stripes near the base.

Veined Spider Orchid

**Caladenia reticulata** (Arachnorchis reticulata)

Grows to 30 cm. Usually one pale yellow flower with red stripes. Flower shaped like a spider. The labellum (tongue) in the middle of the flower is mainly red and has distinctive red teeth along its edge. The green leaf is long and narrow with very long hairs.

King Spider Orchid

**Caladenia leptochila** (Arachnorchis leptochila)

Grows to 45 cm. One to two red and green flowers with all of the "petals" pointing upwards to resemble the shape of a spider. The maroon labellum (tongue) in the middle of the flower is narrow, dark red and without any teeth. Green leaf is long with short and long silky hairs.

Horned Spider Orchid

**Caladenia leucotricha** (Arachnorchis leucotricha)

Grows to 30 cm. Usually one purple to white flower with five "petals". On warm days has a faint sweet perfume. The middle of the flower looks like a cockatoo’s beak. Always has a spot of yellow in the middle of the 'beak'. Pale green leaf is a narrow oblong with very short hairs.

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