**Description**

_Caladenia rigida_ is an annual, terrestrial orchid. It has a single hairy leaf (3-20 cm long) that emerges in winter. It produces a single flower stem in Aug-Sept (15-25 cm tall) with one or two flowers. The flowers are white, with red fringes on the lip (labellum), which is curled under. The sepals and petals (2-5 cm long) are stiffly spread, and the sepals have red clubs on the tips.

**Conservation Rating**

_C. rigida_ 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.

**Habitat**

_C. rigida_ grows in Eucalyptus woodlands, often with _E. leucoxylon_ (South Australian Blue Gum) and _E. goniocalyx_ (Long-leaved Box). The understorey usually includes _Xanthorrhoea semiplana_ (Mount Lofty Grass-tree), _Acacia pycnantha_ (Golden Wattle), and _Hibbertia exuviaces_ (Guinea-flower).

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

**Distribution and abundance**

_C. rigida_ is endemic to South Australia and is currently known from over 20 populations in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges. Its range extends from Kuitpo in the south to Kesbrook in the north.

The population size of _C. rigida_ was estimated to be approximately 5500 mature plants in 2007. Many populations are small and in decline. The largest populations are in the Kesbrook region.
**Threats**

- Climate Change
- Weed Invasion
- Road Management
- Herbivory
- Recreation
- Lack of Recruitment
- Phytophthora
- Illegal Collection

**Recovery Actions**

C. rigida 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 (e.g., weed control, caging, rabbit control, etc.).
- Protecting and managing habitat (e.g., 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. rigida 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.

**Further reading**
