



PLANT

Calochilus campestris

Plains Beard-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	R	E	-	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE

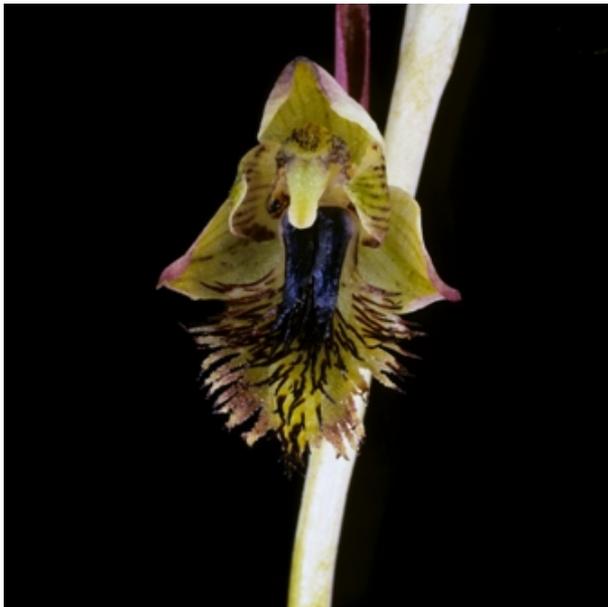


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Conservation Significance

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'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.⁷

Different forms are recognised (may warrant recognition as different subspecies).² All mallee specimens now belong to *Calochilus pruinosis* (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Description

Erect terrestrial orchid, to 60 cm tall, three-cornered dark green leaf, flowers two to fifteen, about 2 cm across. Flowers have green segments with reddish-purple stripes and a large lip which has shiny, metallic blue plates on the base and a bristly beard of coarse reddish-purple hairs.^{2,8}

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, WA and NZ. In SA occurs in EP, YP, MU, SL, KI and SE regions.^{4,5,8}

Widespread but rare on the plains from central Eyre Peninsula east to VIC, largely absent from hilly areas and not in the Flinders and Northern MLR. Widespread in the eastern states but never seen in large numbers.^{2,6}

Endangered in AMLR due to the loss of swamps. One record is known, from Mount Billy CP (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

There are no pre-1983 records.⁷

Habitat

Occurs singly or in small groups in a variety of habitats, from swamp margins, heathland, woodland, heathy forest and open forest, coastal heath and headlands, to inland dunes under mallee.^{2,5,8}

Within the AMLR the single known record is from swampy habitat; the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.⁷

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.⁷

Biology and Ecology

Flowers from late September to December (being later in the swamp forms), lasting one to two days.^{2,8}

Tends to flower after disturbance. Many collections have been made on land recently rolled and burned as the bush is converted to farmland. Greatest chance of sighting in SA is on mown fire breaks in swampy forest reserves of the South East.²

The different forms demonstrate differing degrees of self-pollination. Wasp pollinators have been observed.^{2,3}

Leafless forms may be totally dependent on soil fungi for many years, when they exist solely as a large underground tuber and/or rhizoids without producing above ground parts.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Ngarrindjeri Nation.⁷

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

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





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Threats

Threats include inadequate recruitment, small population size and inappropriate disturbance.⁶

Very limited occurrence within the AMLR, however the majority of its known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.⁷

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

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁷ 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 Bower, C. C. and Branwhite, P. (1993). Observations of the pollination of *Calochilus campestris* R. Br. *Orchadian* 11 (2): 68-71.

4 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Calochilus campestris*

R.Br. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed August 2007).

5 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Calochilus cupreus*. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed October 2007).

6 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.

7 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.

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

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