



PLANT

Thelymitra circumsepta

Naked Sun-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family *ORCHIDACEAE*



Photo: © Rob Bates

Conservation Significance

In SA, the majority of the distribution is confined within the AMLR, disjunct from the remaining extant distribution in other States. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.⁴

Secure in the eastern states.² Recommendation to nationally assess for critically endangered.⁶

Description

Sun-orchid, to 40 cm tall. Flowers are few to several, about 2 cm across, soft blue, greenish outside, unscented.²

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in NSW, VIC and TAS.^{3,7}

Recorded in Cleland CP in 1984 after bushfires, but site was subsequently smothered by Coral Fern (*Gleichenia microphylla*) (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Rediscovered in 2008 in Cleland CP where 10-20 plants remain (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009). Formerly occurred near the summit of Mount Lofty and probably in the Piccadilly Valley.² There were numerous similar bogs in the Piccadilly Valley, with tree ferns, prior to European settlement. May also have occurred in the SE, prior to land clearance, as it occurs in western VIC.²

Single pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered record from Cleland CP.⁴

Habitat

Recorded from the AMLR in perched swamps with Coral Fern, Tea Tree, and Cutting Grass.^{2,5,6}

Found among low shrubs in open forest or in open rocky sites on well-drained and moisture retentive soils.⁷

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 in December. Flowers are self-fertile.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution borders Kurna and Peramangk Nations.⁴

Thelymitra sp. are recorded as a traditional year round food resource for Aboriginal people in NSW (the tuber is eaten).¹

Threats

Likely threats are weed competition, overgrowth by Coral Fern and altered water regimes.

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

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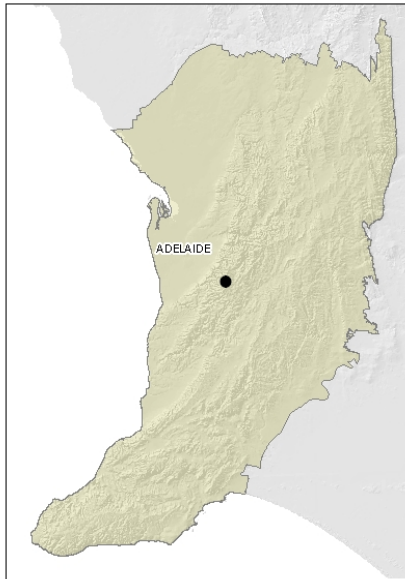
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





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 Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria (2002). *Australia's Virtual Herbarium*. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au/avh/> (accessed July 2007).

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 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

6 Department for Environment and Heritage. (2007). Summary of two Wetland Threatened Flora Workshops (unpublished spreadsheet).

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

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