



PLANT

Thelymitra cyanea

Veined Sun-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE



Photo: © Malcolm Houston

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 'Very Restricted'.⁵

Critically endangered.² Assess for uplisting.⁷

Description

Sun-orchid to 30 cm high. Flowers few to several, 2-3 cm across, blue with darker veins, rarely white or pink, sepals purple outside, no fragrance.²

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in NSW, ACT, VIC and TAS.^{4,8} In SA restricted to the higher parts of the Fleurieu Peninsula.² All collections of are from Myponga-Mount Compass area (B. Bates *pers. comm.*). A large population was found in Stipiturus CP and was estimated to contain 50 to 100 plants (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009)

Pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted to

the Mount Compass area.⁵

Habitat

Grows in damp to wet boggy situations, mainly in montane and subalpine habitats among grasses, sedges and in living sphagnum bogs. Also lowlands and close to the coast in TAS. Forms large vegetative colonies.^{3,8}

In the AMLR, occurs in peaty bogs and swamps especially in raised mounds among myrtaceous shrubs.^{2,6}

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.⁵

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Very High'.⁵

Biology and Ecology

Flowers in early December or November to February in NSW.^{2,3}

Flowers are largely self-pollinating and only open on warm mornings.^{2,8} Native bees are frequently seen on the column.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in southern Peramangk (bordering Kurna Nation). Also marginally occurs in Ngarrindjeri Nation.⁵

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

Threats

Most of its former habitat is now farmed, the swamps having been drained, cultivated, grazed or are overgrown. Populations are now at high risk. It is likely that other species of boggy heathland such as *T. pulchella* and *T. malvina*, as well as undescribed taxa, grew in these swamps before European settlement.²

Approximately one third of known AMLR distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.⁵

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
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

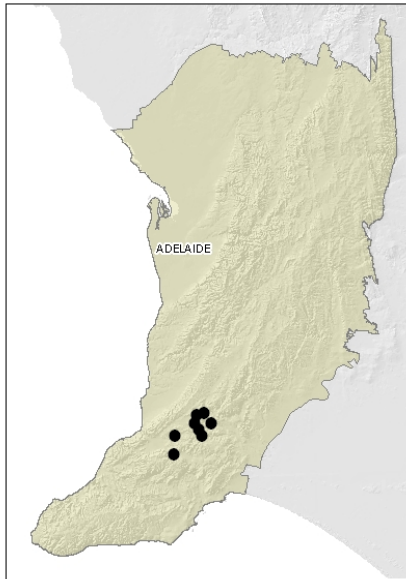
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁵ Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

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

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 Botanic Gardens Trust (1993). *PlantNET - The Plant Information Network System of Botanic Gardens Trust*. Available from <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au> (accessed September 2007).

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

5 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.

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

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

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