



Thelymitra inflata

Plum Sun-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	V	V	-	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE



Photo: © Rob Bates

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'.⁵ Nationally rare.³

Description

Sun-orchid to 30 cm tall. Dull leaf, linear to 25 cm, leathery, rigid, ribbed and channelled. Flowers two to eight, dull blue colour, to 2 cm, opening only during warm humid days. Flowers only open one or two at a time and are not fragrant.³

Thelymitra inflata recently split from *T. mucida* (R. Bates pers. comm.).

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in VIC and TAS. In SA occurs in SL, MU and SE regions.^{2,4}

Restricted to the MLR as far north as Clare, NL (rare), MU and SL.³ Recorded from Warren Reservoir, Mylor area, Mount Bold/Scott Creek area, Kyeema CP, Myponga CP, Kaiser Stuhl CP.⁶

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records near Mount Billy CP and from Millbrook.⁵ There are also several records held within interstate herbaria, around central and northern AMLR.⁴ An historical record, held at the National Herbarium exists south-west of Mount Lofty.⁴

Habitat

Occurs only in the ranges, mostly on ridges and slopes, in woodland sites that may be wet in winter, especially along tracks and other disturbed sites.³

In AMLR, recorded habitats include:

- flooded creekline under *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
- damp grassy woodland sites that are often flooded; tracks in stringybark woodland; a roadside, on clay banks, heavy clay soils and dry gravelly slopes
- damp soakage line, growing near *Leptospermum continentale*
- damp sandy loam, growing near *Eucalyptus viminalis* ssp. *cygnetensis*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* and *Drosera peltata*.⁶

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland and Riparian.⁵

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

Biology and Ecology

Flowers from October to early November, depending on rainfall and temperature.³ Flowers are short lived and most plants complete flowering in a few days; if weather remains cool they may not open at all some years.³ Flowers are self-pollinating.⁷

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri Nations.⁵

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

Threats

Within the AMLR, the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.⁵

Additional current direct threats have been identified

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
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<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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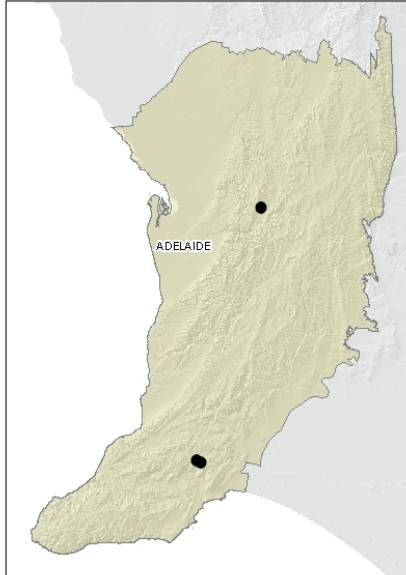
Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁵ 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 Barker, W. R., Barker, R. M., Jessop, J. P. and Vonow, H. P., eds. (2005). *Census of South Australian Vascular Plants, 5th Edition*. Botanic Gardens of Adelaide & State Herbarium, Adelaide.
- 3 Bates, R. J., ed. (2007). *South Australian Native Orchids. Electronic version, August 2007*. Native Orchid Society of South Australia.
- 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.

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