

Oaklands Diuris, *Diuris callitrophila*



Diuris callitrophila (Matt Cameron)

Description

The Oaklands Diuris (*Diuris callitrophila*) is classified as Endangered in NSW. Fewer than 1000 plants are believed to exist in the wild.

The species has the following characteristics:

- White, mauve or purple flowers with some darker markings
- Flowers that look like the 'donkey' ears that are characteristic of the genus, and two long, green, narrow hanging sepals up to 120 mm long
- Up to 9 flowers per stem; the stem is stout, green and up to 50 cm tall
- Typically, two narrow, green, folded basal leaves up to 35 cm long



Diuris callitrophila growing with native daisies (Matt Cameron)

Distribution

The species is currently believed to be restricted to three sites between Oaklands and Urana in southern NSW. Three other small populations in that area have gone extinct in recent times.

Habitat & Ecology

The Oaklands Diuris occurs in grassy woodlands, and particularly those dominated by White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



Diuris callitrophila habitat; grassy White Cypress Pine woodland (Matt Cameron)

Oaklands Diuris life cycle:

- Leaves produced during autumn
- Flowers in November, although flowering may not occur every year
- Pollination is believed to occur via floral deception, with native bees attracted to the flowers because of their superficial resemblance to other nearby plants that provide nectar and pollen
- If pollination is successful, seed pods form and the seed is shed by late December
- The plant spends the hot summer underground as a dormant tuber

Threats

The population is threatened by:

- Its small population size
- Its highly restricted distribution
- Competition with invasive grasses and herbaceous weeds
- Competition with native plant species (e.g., White Cypress Pine)
- Browsing by rabbits and kangaroos
- Inappropriate fire and grazing regimes

More information

To report a possible sighting of the orchid, contact:

Office of Environment and Heritage Environment Line

t: 131 555 | f: 02 9995 5999

e: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

For more information on the Wild Orchids Project:

Rhiannon Caynes, Murray Local Land Services

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w: www.murray.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/programs-and-projects/orchid-recovery-project



The Wild Orchids Project is a Saving our Species partnership between Murray Local Land Services, the Office of Environment and Heritage, Forestry Corporation of NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Primary Industries - Lands, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, and private landholders.

The NSW Government's Environmental Trust is a key financial contributor to the Wild Orchids Project.

Information sources and further reading

Bishop, T. (2000) Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria. (New South Wales University Press, Sydney).

Coates, F., Jeanes, J., and Pritchard, A. (2003). Recovery Plan for 25 Threatened Orchid Taxa of Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, 2003-2007. Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra, ACT.

Murray Catchment Management Authority and Office of Environment and Heritage (2012) New South Wales Murray Biodiversity Management Plan. Murray CMA, Albury.

Porteners, M. and Robertson, G. (2003) Threatened Plants in Western New South Wales: Information Review. (NSW NPWS, Hurstville).

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing September 2016. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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