



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

ABN 17 536 241 485

PO Box 244 Venus Bay Vic 3956

Website: www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au

Email: friendsofvbp@gmail.com

Plant of the month: Gnat Orchid *Cyrtostylis reniformis*



There are two similar Gnat Orchids occurring at Venus Bay: *Cyrtostylis reniformis* Gnat Orchid and *C. robusta* Large Gnat-orchid, which, as its name suggests is larger and usually has more flowers than *C. reniformis*. Gnat orchid has a single ground-hugging, round to heart-shaped, blue-green to grey-green leaf with whitish veins, 10-35 mm long x 10-35 mm wide. The 1-4 flowers are pinkish/yellowish/greenish-brown to 10 mm long from July to October. The labellum or prominent part of the flower projects forward. It is found in all states except WA and is widespread in coastal heathland and woodland, as well as further inland.

Gnat-orchids grow in well-drained soils in part shade. All native orchids are protected in Victoria; it is illegal to pick or disturb them.



Cyrtostylis (pronounced sir-toh-STY-lis) is in the large Orchidaceae family. The name is from the Greek *kyrtos*, meaning arched and *stylis*, meaning column, probably referring to the incurved column. The species name *reniformis* means kidney-shaped, from the leaf shape.

Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au