

Corybas walliae

COMMON NAME

Zeller's spider orchid

SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2016

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Corybas walliae Lehnebach

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, seasonal orchid. Leaves solitary heart-shaped sub-oblong or sub-hastate, distinctly mucronate. Flowers solitary, mostly pale green or yellowish.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Found in leaf litter under southern beech (*Fuscospora* or *Lophozonia* (Nothofagaceae)) or kamahi (*Pterophylla racemosa*) forest, or growing in mossy seepages and gravelly soils.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial herbs, 13–34 mm tall at flowering. **Leaf** distinctly petiolate, petiole 5.5–28.8 mm long; lamina cordiform to sub-oblong or sub-hastate, 6.4–14.0 × 9.3–23.5 mm; margin entire; apex mucronate with mucro 0.2–2.6 mm long. **Flower** solitary, held erect on a peduncle 2.7–11.6 mm long, **floral bract** narrowly triangular to deltate when flattened, 2.6–10.0 × 1.4–3.7 mm; **dorsal sepal** pale yellow-green, arching over the labellum, concave to cucullate, narrow at the base and widely spatulate towards the tip and at times bearing trichomes on the upper surface, apex emarginated or rounded; **lateral sepal** linear-filiform, pale yellow-green, at times pale pink, 9.4–25.0 mm long; **petals** similar to the dorsal sepals but longer, 24.5–62.2 mm long; **labellum** pale green or yellowish, less often with a few blotches of pink near the upper section, auriculate at base, aperture 1.2–2.6 mm in diameter; lamina deflexed, c. 7 mm wide, with a central groove formed by the inwards folding of the lamina, extending downwards to the lower margin and sunken pit formed at the point where the lamina bends, margin incurve, mostly entire but erose at the lower margin, inner surface of the labellum covered with glandular trichomes, some also present in the outer surface. **Ovary** 3.0–9.0 mm long. **Column** 2.3 mm long, straight with deltate to shallowly deltate wings flanking the stigma.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to native orchids of New Zealand](#)



SIMILAR TAXA

The pale flowers of *Corybas walliae* most closely resemble those of *C. vitreus* but they differs from that species in having a conspicuously yellow to pale green labellum lamina and margins and by the presence of numerous glandular trichomes on the internal and external surface of the labellum. *Corybas walliae* also has larger leaves. *Corybas walliae* is best distinguished from *C. trilobus* by having an overall pale green to yellow flower.

FLOWERING

October–November

FRUITING

November–January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Not Threatened.

ETYMOLOGY

corybas: Helmet flower

walliae: Commemorating Walli (Walburga) Zeller, the mother of Andreas J. Zeller who assisted in the formal taxonomic recognition of this species.

SPECIES ORTHOGRAPHY

Lehnebach et al. (2016) described this species as *Corybas wallii*—a species epithet that honours a male person. However, in their protologue the etymology of the species epithet is given thus ‘this species is named after Walli (Walburga) Zeller, mother of the second author of this article’. As the person honoured is female the orthographic end should be *walliae* not *wallii*—as in *Carex edgariae*, *Libertia edgariae*—species honouring Dr Elizabeth Edgar.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (15 August 2016). Description from Lehnebach et al. (2016)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lehnebach CA, Zeller AJ, Frericks J, Ritchie P. 2016. Five new species of *Corybas* (Diurideae, Orchidaceae) endemic to New Zealand and phylogeny of the *Nematoceras* clade. *Phytotaxa* 270: 1–24.

<https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.270.1.1>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Corybas walliae* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-walliae/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-walliae/>