

Aporostylis bifolia

COMMON NAMES

odd-leaved orchid

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stocky, glandular-pubescent, terrestrial, perennial spring to summer-green, tuberous herb. Plant at flowering up to 200 mm tall. **Tubers** globose-conical. **Stem** erect, slender, densely glandular-pubescent, green to reddish-green. **Leaves** near stem base, close to ground, paired, close-set, dark green to green, usually brown or purple spotted, densely to sparsely covered in glandular pubescent hairs, these forming an obvious marginal fringe; lower leaf 100–200 mm long, the upper leaf usually conspicuously shorter; lamina broadly ovate-oblong, broadly oblong, broadly lanceolate, elliptic, rarely linear-lanceolate. **Flower** usually solitary, rarely paired, subtended by a partially sheathing floral bract; bract partially enclosing ovary. **Perianth** up to 250 mm diameter, white or pink, glandular-pubescent. **Sepals** more or less externally glandular-pubescent; dorsal sepal upper most, shallowly concave, wider than laterals, slightly arched over column, lateral sepals similar to petals, linear-lanceolate, wide-spreading. **Petals** similar but slightly shorter. **Labellum** sessile, simple, orbicular-obovate broadly expanded with narrower base, margins entire; calli near base, linear to linear-elliptic, yellow, in two median more or less longitudinal rows. **Column** elongate, erect to slightly curved, column-wings fused in front of base, narrow to level of stigma, there wider and extending upwards as small, sharply pointed lobes, one either side of anther. **Anther** terminal, apiculate, papillose, pollinia two per cell, pollen finely granular. **Stigma** discoid, rostellum median.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with species of *Caladenia* R.Br. and *Chiloglottis* R.Br. on account of its broad shortly petiolate leaves. From *Caladenia* it differs by its two rather than usually one, broadly ovate-oblong rather than linear or linear-lanceolate, green usually brown or purple-spotted, rather than uniformly green to reddish-green leaves. From *Chiloglottis* it differs by its glandular hairy leaves and flowers with white sepals and petals.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic monotypic genus. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.



Southern Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/12/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Southern Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/11/2010, Licence: CC BY.

HABITAT

Initially subalpine to high montane but descending to lowland and coastal habitats in southern half of range. A species of bogs, seepages and damp open ground, shrubland, tussock grassland or forest. Often found in plantation forest, particularly under pines.

GENUS

Aporostylis

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Aporostylis bifolia (Hook.f.) Rupp et Hatch

SYNONYMS

Caladenia ?*bifolia* Hook.f.; *Chiloglottis traversii* F.Muell.; *Caladenia macrophylla* Col.; *Chiloglottis bifolia* (Hook.f.) Schlechter

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–March

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

aporostylis: Perplexing style

bifolia: From Latin 'bis' and 'folius', meaning two leaves

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

APOBIF

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aporostylis-bifolia/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026