Caladenia bartlettii

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Terrestrial orchid usually occurring as solitary plants sometimes as small colonies of up to 10. All parts finely but sparsely eglandular hairy. **Leaf** solitary up to 200 × 2 mm long, narrow-linear, dark purple-green to reddish-green. **Stem** erect, slender somewhat wiry, up to 300 mm tall, sparsely eglandular-glandular hairy. **Floral bracts** 1–(2). **Flowers** 1–(2) up to 20 mm diameter, in lax racemes, perianth dark glazed mauve to magenta often fading to pink or white near flower centre. **Petals and lateral sepals** spreading to somewhat deflexed, narrowly-elliptic, apices acute. **Dorsal sepal** erect. **Labellum** 3-lobed, marked with transverse dark pink to magenta bands, disc with 2 unequal lines of stalked callii, stalks dark pink to magenta, globular callus heads yellow, lateral lobes deeply cut; mid-lobe broadly triangular, recurved, margins irregular wavy, dark yellow, marginal callii absent. **Column** erect to slightly recurved, dark pink to magenta, often with 2–3 darker transverse, irregular bars, column wings distinctly broadening toward apex.

SIMILAR TAXA
Caladenia minor is very similar but the petals and sepals are broader and have rounded apices. It is not confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D.Don.) Lindl.) forest and is more widely distributed than *C. bartlettii*. *Caladenia alata* is somewhat similar but smaller (up to 120 mm tall) has dull (not glossy) white, pink, red or mauve flowers, perianths with acute rather than obtuse-rounded segment apices, and on either side of the mid-lobe a single orange callus is present. The mid-lobe is also orange-tipped and strongly recurved. *C. alata* is not confined to kauri forest and is most often found in gumland scrub.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Paki to about the northern Waikato and Kaimai Ranges. Exact southern limits as yet unclear; plants that may be have been reported from Nelson and Marlborough are possibly *C. minor*).

HABITAT
Coastal to montane (0–500 m a.s.l.). In the strict sense virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D.Don.) Lindl.) forest where it grows in leaf litter, often near the bases of kauri trees. Also found in gumland scrub (but always in association with kauri remnants). Evidently relishes infertile soils.



Whole plant. Te Hapua, Northland. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 03/10/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower bud. Spirits bay Road-side, Northland. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 06/10/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS
Caladenia bartlettii is apparently a rather sparsely distributed and naturally uncommon orchid. However, it is quite likely that the apparent rarity of this species is also in part due to its being overlooked for despite its colourful flowers it is not easily seen amongst the leaf litter in which it usually grows. A further issue is that there seems to be much confusion as to the correct application of the name with a number of unnamed segregates allied to *C. bartlettii* recognised by some New Zealand orchidologists.

GENUS
Caladenia

FAMILY
Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY
Caladenia bartlettii (Hatch) D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

SYNONYMS
Caladenia carnea var. bartlettii Hatch, Petalochilus bartlettii (Hatch) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Jones et al. (2001) revived the genus *Petalochilus* R.S.Rogers (erected by Rogers (1924) for what has come to be viewed as a peloric state of *Caladenia* R.Br.—see Moore & Edgar (1970)) for a distinct clade of mostly New Zealand orchids that had usually been referred to as *Caladenia*. Subsequently Hopper et al. (2004) showed how the reorganisation of *Caladenia* by Jones et al. (2001) was unworkable and they recommended a return to *Caladenia* and the other allied Australian genera that had been recognised previously. Following discussion with S. Hopper and P. Weston (pers. comm., 2011, 2014) the treatment of Hopper et al. (2004) is preferred to that of Jones et al. (2001) and so followed here.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October–December

FRUITING
November–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to native orchids of New Zealand

NVS CODE
CALBAR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, EF
2004 | Sparse
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient | Qualifiers: TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hopper SD, Brown AP. 2004. Robert Brown's *Caladenia* revisited, including a revision of its sister genera *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella* and *Pheladenia* (Caladeniinae: Orchidaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 17(2): 171–240. https://doi.org/10.1071/SB03002.

Jones DL, Molloy BPJ, Clements MA. 1997. Three new species and a new combination in *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian 12*: 221–229.

Jones DL, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM. 2001. A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian 13*: 389–419.

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

Rogers, RS. 1924. *Petalochilus*: a New Genus of New Zealand Orchids. *Journal of Botany 62*: 65–67. (Reprinted in TRSNZ 1926.)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 February 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - as Caladenia bartlettii.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/caladenia-bartlettii/

PDF DATE

08 July 2026