

Caladenia minor

COMMON NAMES

caladenia; finger orchid

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Similar to *Caladenia bartlettii* but has broader petals and sepals with rounded apices.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Pahi south to about Kawhia and the Kaimai Ranges, East Cape, eastern Wairarapa), South Island (reported from the Nelson area).

THREATS

Data Deficient because its exact distribution and abundance remain unclear due to past confusion with *Caladenia chlorostyla*.

GENUS

Caladenia

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Caladenia minor Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Petalochilus minor (Hook.f.) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.



Scott Point at the top of Ninety Mile Beach.
Photographer: Eric Scanlen, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Petalochilus bartlettii. Photographer: Kevin Matthews, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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.

The identity of *Caladenia minor* has long been a source of confusion for New Zealand botanists. Clements (1989, p. 28) published a lectotype of the species, which apparently seems to have been overlooked by many New Zealand botanists. He clarified matters in a letter to the editor of the NZ Native Orchid Journal (Clements 2019) and since then it has been understood that *C. minor* is similar to *C. bartlettii* but differs from it by having broader petals and sepals with rounded apices. The petals of *C. bartlettii* are narrow with acute apices. *C. minor* is more widespread than *C. bartlettii*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY

minor: Smaller

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

CALMNR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 39, 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Data Deficient

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Clements MA. 1989. Catalogue of Australian Orchidaceae. Australian Orchid Research vol. 1. Re-published in digital format 2021 by the Australian Orchid Foundation.
- Clements MA. 2019. Letter to the editor on *Caladenia minor*. *New Zealand Native Orchid Journal* 154: 21–23.
- 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, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM. 2001. A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13(9): 389–419. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310770#page/1/mode/1up>.
- 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. *The Journal of Botany* 62: 65–67.
https://archive.bsbi.org/Journal_of_Botany_1924.pdf

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007.

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/caladenia-minor/>

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