

# Calochilus paludosus

## COMMON NAME

bearded orchid

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Orchidaceae

## AUTHORITY

Calochilus paludosus R.Br.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

## NVS CODE

CALPAL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, EF, SO, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, EF, SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island (North-west Nelson to northern Westland). Also Australia where it is very common

## HABITAT

A species of disturbed habitats. It is usually found in open gumland scrub or pakihi, on clay pans or on road side banks. Also commonly encountered near geothermally active ground. Sometimes found amongst tussock grassland in upper montane situations.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Calochilus paludosus. Photographer: Eric Scanlen, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender to stout orchid 150–900 mm tall. **Stem** erect, light green to yellow-green (sometimes glaucous). **Leaf** fleshy, linear-lanceolate, yellow-green to green, channelled, sheathing at base apex acute. **Cauline bracts** similar but much shorter. **Inflorescence** a raceme of (1)–2–(4) flowers. **Floral bracts** narrow, acute, overtopping ovary. **Perianth** mostly green, except for bright reddish lamina and red to red-violet cilia of labellum (cilia copious, rather long). **Dorsal sepal** 10–15 mm long, broad-elliptic, acute, somewhat folded about column; lateral sepals similar though smaller. **Petals** shorter, obliquely deltoid, apex subacute, directed toward dorsal sepal, green finely striped with red. **Labellum** green suffused with red or purple, with a reddish apex, not much larger than sepals and petals; apex ligulate, bare rather long, tapering, straight; disc broad with dense long processes; base covered with numerous small, acute purple-red, maroon to red calli, and on each side of these are two short, erect, intramarginal greenish plate-like calli. **Column** wings with out basal glands or calli.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

## SIMILAR TAXA

Of the three species of *Calochilus* R.Br. known from New Zealand, *C. paludosus* is easily distinguished by the column-wings which lack basal glands, by the ligulate, glabrous and rather long and conspicuously tapering apex of the labellum.

## FLOWERING

(September)–October–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

## FRUITING

October–February

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Impossible to cultivate. It should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

Habitat loss and plant collectors are the main threats to this attractive bearded orchid.

## ETYMOLOGY

**calochilus**: From Greek kalos (beautiful) and cheilos (lip), referring to the attractive labellum

**paludosus**: Of the swamp

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

## 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>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calochilus-paludosus/>