

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

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North and northern South Islands (North West Nelson to northern Westland). Present in 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.



Calochilus paludosus. Photographer: Ian St George



Calochilus paludosus. Photographer: Eric Scanlen

FEATURES

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; ligulate apex, 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.

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, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

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