

Cryptostylis subulata

COMMON NAME

duck bill orchid, large tongue orchid

SYNONYMS

Malaxis subulata Labill., *Cryptostylis longifolia* R.Br.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Cryptostylis subulata (Labill.) Rchb.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

CRYSUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 64

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (swamps north of Kaitaia and Coopers Beach). Also Australia (abundant in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania).

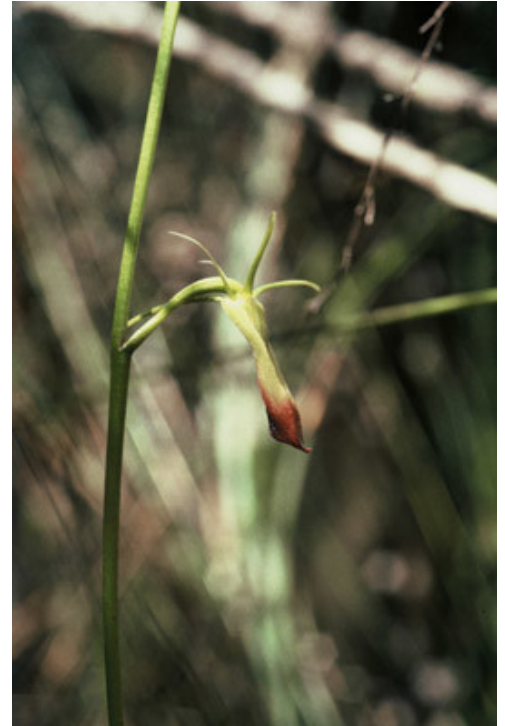
HABITAT

Coastal to lowland peat bogs and associated slowly flowing streams and lakes. Often found growing amongst *Machaerina* Vahl and *Schoenus* L.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Waimangu Swamp, Karikari Peninsula.
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Cryptostylis subulata. Photographer:
Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout terrestrial orchid of peat bogs and lake margins. **Leaves** 1–3; petioles 10–190 mm long; lamina 30–180 × 13–40 mm, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, light to dark green on both surfaces, apex acute, base cuneiform to tapering. **Flowering stem** 0.25–1 m tall; sheathing bracts 3–5, distant. **Flowers** 5–12, pedicellate; pedicel + ovary 15–20 mm long; sepals and petals yellow-green, stiffly spreading, linear to very narrowly deltoid, margins inrolled; sepals 22 mm long; petals 13 mm long. **Labellum** 20–25 mm long, oblong, red-brown, acute, margins at centre rolled back, often overlapping or meeting, resulting in a constriction at that point within the labellum, concave near anther, elsewhere convex, keeled towards tip by 2 more or less bearded ridges, and 2 finer parallel ones, all four lines terminating in a conspicuous red-brown, 2-lobed, glandular boss near apex.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

None in New Zealand

FLOWERING

September–May

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

November–June

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Should not be removed from the wild. However, rather easily grown in a peat filled pot kept partially submerged in a tub of water, or in a suitably permanently damp, peaty, sunny spot in the garden.

THREATS

Plant collectors and wetland destruction remain continual problems within the New Zealand part of its range.

ETYMOLOGY

cryptostylis: From the Greek cryptos (hidden) and stylis (style) which refers to the very short column which is obscured by the basal lobes of the labellum.

subulata: From the Latin subulam 'awl', meaning awl-shaped

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

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>.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cryptostylis-subulata/>