

Calochilus paludosus

COMMON NAMES

bearded orchid

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

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.

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.

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.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, SO
[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

THREATS

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

DETAILED TAXONOMY



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



On gumland slope above swamp, Pipiwai Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 14/10/2024, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Calochilus paludosus R.Br.

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

(September)–October–December

FRUITING

October–February

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

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

paludosus: Of the swamp

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

CALPAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

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

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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