

Caladenia bartlettii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial orchid usually occurring as solitary plants sometimes as small colonies of up to 10. All parts finely but sparsely eglandular hairy. **Leaf** solitary up to 200 × 2 mm long, narrow-linear, dark purple-green to reddish-green. **Stem** erect, slender somewhat wiry, up to 300 mm tall, sparsely eglandular-glandular hairy. **Floral bracts** 1–(2). **Flowers** 1–(2) up to 20 mm diameter, in lax racemes, perianth dark glazed mauve to magenta often fading to pink or white near flower centre. **Petals and lateral sepals** spreading to somewhat deflexed, narrowly-elliptic, apices acute. **Dorsal sepal** erect. **Labellum** 3-lobed, marked with transverse dark pink to magenta bands, disc with 2 unequal lines of stalked callii, stalks dark pink to magenta, globular callus heads yellow, lateral lobes deeply cut; mid-lobe broadly triangular, recurved, margins irregular wavy, dark yellow, marginal callii absent. **Column** erect to slightly recurved, dark pink to magenta, often with 2–3 darker transverse, irregular bars, column wings distinctly broadening toward apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

Caladenia minor is very similar but the petals and sepals are broader and have rounded apices. It is not confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don.) Lindl.) forest and is more widely distributed than *C. bartlettii*. *Caladenia alata* is somewhat similar but smaller (up to 120 mm tall) has dull (not glossy) white, pink, red or mauve flowers, perianths with acute rather than obtuse-rounded segment apices, and on either side of the mid-lobe a single orange callus is present. The mid-lobe is also orange-tipped and strongly recurved. *C. alata* is not confined to kauri forest and is most often found in gumland scrub.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Pahi to about the northern Waikato and Kaimai Ranges. Exact southern limits as yet unclear; plants that may have been reported from Nelson and Marlborough are possibly *C. minor*).

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (0–500 m a.s.l.). In the strict sense virtually confined to kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don.) Lindl.) forest where it grows in leaf litter, often near the bases of kauri trees. Also found in gumland scrub (but always in association with kauri remnants). Evidently relishes infertile soils.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT
[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)



Whole plant. Te Hapua, Northland.
Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken:
03/10/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower bud. Spirits bay Road-side, Northland.
Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken:
06/10/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Caladenia bartlettii is apparently a rather sparsely distributed and naturally uncommon orchid. However, it is quite likely that the apparent rarity of this species is also in part due to its being overlooked for despite its colourful flowers it is not easily seen amongst the leaf litter in which it usually grows. A further issue is that there seems to be much confusion as to the correct application of the name with a number of unnamed segregates allied to *C. bartlettii* recognised by some New Zealand orchidologists.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Caladenia bartlettii (Hatch) D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

SYNONYMS

Caladenia carnea var. *bartlettii* Hatch, *Petalochilus bartlettii* (Hatch) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.

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.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

OTHER INFORMATION

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

CALBAR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

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

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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, Molloy BPJ, Clements MA. 1997. Three new species and a new combination in *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae) from New Zealand. *The Orchadian* 12: 221–229.

Jones DL, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM. 2001. A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13: 389–419.

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. *Journal of Botany* 62: 65–67. (Reprinted in TRSNZ 1926.)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 February 2007). Description based on Jones et al. (1997) - as *Caladenia bartlettii*.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

11 March 2025