

Aporostylis bifolia

COMMON NAME

odd-leaved orchid

SYNONYMS

Caladenia ?*bifolia* Hook.f.; *Chiloglottis traversii* F.Muell.; *Caladenia macrophylla* Col.; *Chiloglottis bifolia* (Hook.f.) Schlechter

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Aporostylis bifolia (Hook.f.) Rupp et Hatch

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

APOBIF

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic monotypic genus. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Initially subalpine to high montane but descending to lowland and coastal habitats in southern half of range. A species of bogs, seepages and damp open ground, shrubland, tussock grassland or forest. Often found in plantation foresty, particularly under pines.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mount Climie, northern Remutaka Range.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
10/01/2004, Licence: CC BY.



Southern Taranua Range. Photographer: Jeremy
R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/12/2007, Licence: CC
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stocky, glandular-pubescent, terrestrial, perennial spring to summer-green, tuberous herb. Plant at flowering up to 200 mm tall. **Tubers** globose-conical. **Stem** erect, slender, densely glandular-pubescent, green to reddish-green. **Leaves** near stem base, close to ground, paired, close-set, dark green to green, usually brown or purple spotted, densely to sparsely covered in glandular pubescent hairs, these forming an obvious marginal fringe; lower leaf 100–200 mm long, the upper leaf usually conspicuously shorter; lamina broadly ovate-oblong, broadly oblong, broadly lanceolate, elliptic, rarely linear-lanceolate. **Flower** usually solitary, rarely paired, subtended by a partially sheathing floral bract; bract partially enclosing ovary. **Perianth** up to 250 mm diameter, white or pink, glandular-pubescent. **Sepals** more or less externally glandular-pubescent; dorsal sepal upper most, shallowly concave, wider than laterals, slightly arched over column, lateral sepals similar to petals, linear-lanceolate, wide-spreading. **Petals** similar but slightly shorter. **Labellum** sessile, simple, orbicular-obovate broadly expanded with narrower base, margins entire; calli near base, linear to linear-elliptic, yellow, in two median more or less longitudinal rows. **Column** elongate, erect to slightly curved, column-wings fused in front of base, narrow to level of stigma, there wider and extending upwards as small, sharply pointed lobes, one either side of anther. **Anther** terminal, apiculate, papillose, pollinia two per cell, pollen finely granular. **Stigma** discoid, rostellum median.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with species of *Caladenia* R.Br. and *Chiloglottis* R.Br. on account of its broad shortly petiolate leaves. From *Caladenia* it differs by its two rather than usually one, broadly ovate-oblong rather than linear or linear-lanceolate, green usually brown or purple-spotted, rather than uniformly green to reddish-green leaves. From *Chiloglottis* it differs by its glandular hairy leaves and flowers with white sepals and petals.

FLOWERING

October–March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

aporostylis: Perplexing style

bifolia: From Latin 'bis' and 'folius', meaning two leaves

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>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aporostylis-bifolia/>