



PLANT

Paracaleana disjuncta

Black-beak Duck-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family *ORCHIDACEAE*



Photo: © June Niejalke

Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.²

Description

Duck-orchid; leaf ovate, to 20 mm long and 10 mm wide, green above and purplish below. Flower stem to 15 cm tall. Flower usually single, to 18 mm long; ovary differentiated into top and bottom sections, the lower part slender, bright green, the upper part purple brown.¹

Synonyms: *Sullivania minor* and *Sullivania nigrita*. Previously recognised in SA as *Caleana* or *Paracaleana nigrita* which is now regarded as endemic to WA.^{1,4}

Distribution and Population

In SA occurs in SL and KI regions.^{1,4} Also occurs in VIC and WA.

Cox Scrub CP has two separate populations. In 1995, 14 plants were recorded.³ Seventy-four buds were recorded in 2007 after fire, but only ten flowered (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records only from Cox Scrub CP.²

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered record towards Mount Compass.² Also collected near Ashbourne in the 1960s (recorded as *Caleana nigrita*).¹

Habitat

Occurs on leached peaty grey sands, near soaks, growing with low sedges and *Eucalyptus baxteri*.¹ In Cox Scrub CP recorded growing on sandy track where slashed, near *Hypolaena fastigiata*.³ Occurs near populations of the two other SA duck-orchid species.¹

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Heathy Woodland.²

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.²

Biology and Ecology

Flowers between October and November¹

Searching at both the KI and SL sites has not revealed any sign of plants in years between fires; seems that flowers only appear after fire or some other disturbance.^{1,4}

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri Nation.²

Threats

Threats include (Cox Scrub CP site):

- nutrient enrichment could be an issue from nearby paddocks (causing Veldt grass to become a problem)
- rubbish dumping near carparks
- grazing (assumed to be by rabbits, but may also be kangaroos and deer) (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Fire management activities would probably be beneficial (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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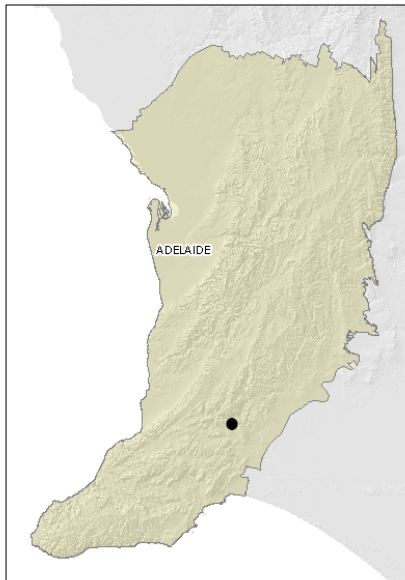
Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





Very limited occurrence within the AMLR, however the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.² Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.² Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

¹ Bates, R. J., ed. (2007). *South Australian Native Orchids. Electronic version, August 2007*. Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

² Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

³ Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

⁴ Jones, D. L. (2006). *A complete guide to native orchids of Australia including the island territories*. New Holland Publishers, Australia.

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