



PLANT

Paracaleana minor

Small Duck-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	V	E	-	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE



Photo: © Ann Prescott

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'.³

Description

Duck-orchid. Leaf narrow to 9 cm long, red brown. Flower stem to 18 cm tall, wiry. Flowers one to seven, about 15 mm long in tones of green, red and dark brown, on red ovaries.¹

Synonym: *Sullivanana minor*. Similar to *Paracaleana disjuncta*.¹

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS and NZ. In SA occurs in SL and SE regions.^{2,4} Restricted and uncommon in SA, occurring in very few locations in SL and SE. More common in the eastern States.¹

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records from near Myponga and Inman Valley.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records from Kangarilla, Kuitpo and Mount Compass areas.³

Habitat

Occurs on forested ridges and slopes in gravelly soil, also in coastal scrub and open areas among low shrubs and grasses.⁴

In the AMLR, forms small colonies in leached sand under light forest usually with *Eucalyptus baxteri*.² Occurs in the same habitats as Large Duck-orchid, i.e. sandy woodland soils with Bracken and *Banksia* spp.¹

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Heathy Woodland.³

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.³

Biology and Ecology

Flowers between November and January, later than the Large Duck-orchid.^{1,2}

Flowers more freely on disturbed sites, e.g. around sand quarries and along old tracks.¹ Flowering is enhanced by summer fires.⁴

All forms of Small Duck-orchid in SA reproduce asexually, although the flowers are structured for insect pollination. Plants set viable seed without the flowers being pollinated. The SA form may be considered a separate subspecies.^{1,2}

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in southern Kurna and Ngarrindjeri Nations.³

Threats

Threats include:

- nutrient enrichment could be an issue from nearby paddocks
- weed competition is a potential issue
- habitat degradation due to grazing by livestock, rabbits and kangaroos (B. Bates *pers. comm.*).

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

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
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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



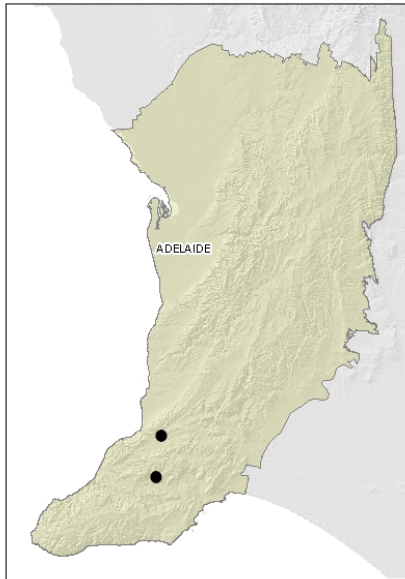


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ 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 *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Paracaleana minor (R.Br.)Blaxell.* Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au/> (accessed September 2007).

³ 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.

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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