



PLANT

*Pterostylis uliginosa*

Hale Greenhood

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE



Photo: © Cathy Houston

### Conservation Significance

In SA, the majority of the distribution is confined within the AMLR, disjunct from the remaining extant distribution in other States. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.<sup>2</sup>

### Description

Greenhood orchid; rosette leaves, dark green, shiny, flat. Flower stem 60-150 mm tall, fleshy, narrowed toward base. Flowers, one to seven, bright green and white, shiny, petals shortly pointed, smooth.<sup>5</sup>

Synonym: *Speculantha uliginosa*.<sup>5</sup>

### Distribution and Population

Also occurs in NSW and VIC. In SA only occurs in SL region.<sup>5</sup>

Previously known from at least seven privately-owned Fleurieu Peninsula swamps in the Mount Compass - Myponga area.<sup>3,4</sup>

Currently only known from one property in Higgs

Swamp with a population of less than 10 plants (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records between Mount Compass and Myponga.<sup>2</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered record from near Kuitpo.<sup>2</sup>

### Habitat

Occurs in permanent freshwater swamps/peat mounds. Herbarium records indicate it grows in shrubland with sedge and fern understorey, co-occurring with species such as *Leptospermum continentale*, *Gleichenia microphylla*, *Melaleuca squamea*, *Viminaria juncea*, *Acacia retinodes*, *Sprengelia incarnata*, *Phragmites australis*, *Typha* sp., *Schizaea bifida* and *Empodisma minus*.<sup>4</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.<sup>2</sup>

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Very High'.<sup>2</sup>

### Biology and Ecology

Flowers from November to March.<sup>5</sup>

### Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution borders southern Kurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri Nations.<sup>2</sup>

Species of Orchidaceae are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The small tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).<sup>1</sup>

### Threats

Threats include altered water regimes and water extraction (dams, drains, pumping), habitat degradation, fragmentation (by roads), nutrient enrichment, weed invasion (problem weed species: Cocksfoot, Sweet Vernal Grass, Blackberry, Gorse), and livestock grazing.<sup>4</sup> Competition by dominant native plants such as Coral Fern and *Leptospermum* sp. and browsing by rabbits also poses a threat (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009).

Within the AMLR, approximately one third of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.<sup>2</sup>

Additional current direct threats have been identified

### 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





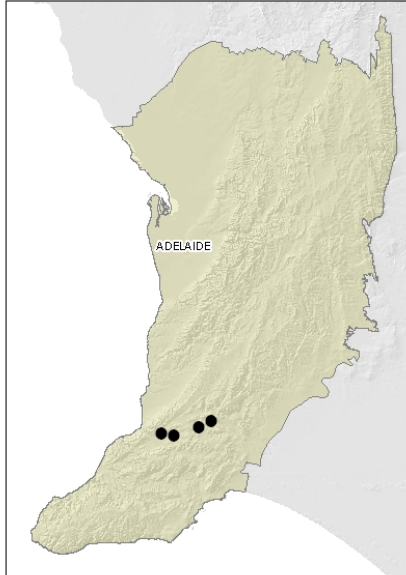
## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>2</sup> 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 Australian National Botanic Gardens (2007). *Aboriginal Plant Use - NSW Southern Tablelands*. Available from <http://www.anbg.gov.au/apu/index.html> (accessed August 2007).

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 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Wetlands Inventory Database of South Australia*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

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

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