

Caladenia nothofageti

COMMON NAME

beech caladenia

SYNONYMS

Petalochilus nothofageti (D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.) D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Caladenia nothofageti D.L.Jones, Molloy et M.A.Clem.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

PETNOT

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

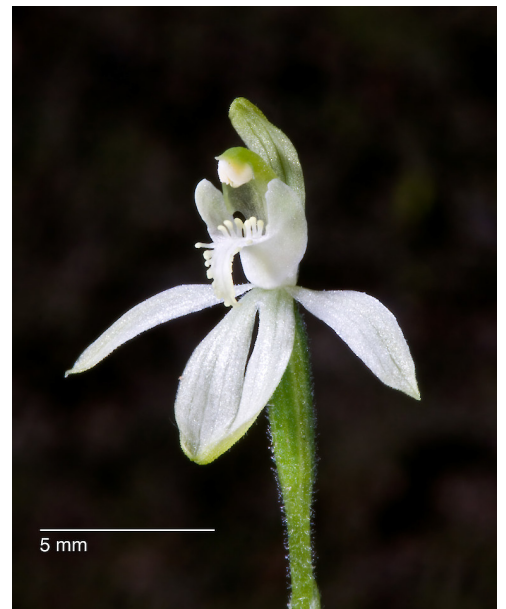
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from about Lake Taupo south), South Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane (up to 1000 m a.s.l.). Virtually confined to beech (*Nothofagaceae*) forest where it favours well-lighted sites relatively free from other taller plants. Often found on banks or lining track sides. Sometimes found around the margins of seepages.



Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/12/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Solitary, hirsute, terrestrial, tuberous herb. **Leaf** semi-erect, 40–180 × 1–3 mm, bright green, narrowly linear, sparsely glandular pubescent. **Flowering scape** slender, wiry, 50–100 mm tall, green, glandular-pubescent. **Sterile bracts** closely sheathing, 8–10 × 2–3 mm, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse to acute, externally glandular-pubescent; fertile bracts closely sheathing, 5.0–7.0 × 2.0–2.5 mm, lanceolate, externally glandular pubescent. **Ovary** 6–8 mm long, narrowly ellipsoid, green, glandular-pubescent. **Flower** unscented, usually solitary, 14–16 mm diameter, externally greenish-white, internally white. **Tepals** externally sparsely glandular; dorsal sepal erect and slightly incurved; lateral sepals porrect to obliquely decurved, slightly divergent; petals spreading to drooping. **Dorsal sepal** 8.0–9.5 × 2.0–3.0 mm, narrowly obovate, obtuse. **Lateral sepals** 8.0–9.5 × 2.3 mm, narrowly oblanceolate, slightly falcate, obtuse. **Petals** 8.0–9.0 × 2.2 mm, falcate, subacute. **Labellum** white (very rarely with faint pink transverse bars), articulated on a short 0.3 × 0.7 mm claw, trilobed; lamina transversely ovate in outline when flattened, 5.5–6.5 × 5.0–5.5 mm, erect in proximal ⅓, porrect to decurved in distal ⅔, apex decurved; lateral lobes 2.3 mm wide, erect and column-embracing, entire; mid-lobe 3 mm long, oblong-tapered; margins cream to pale yellow, with 4–6 pairs of flat marginal calli to 0.8 mm long, these decrescent and irregular towards apex; lamina calli pale yellow, in 2 rows extending onto the base of the mid-lobe; basal calli 2–4, stipitate; head ovoid or bifurcate, c. 0.6 mm diameter, papillate; longest lamina calli 1 mm long, stipitate; head 0.2 mm diameter, papillate. **Column** 5.5–6.0 × 2.5 mm, green, shallowly incurved, narrowly winged; central anterior ridge c. 1 mm wide. **Anther** c. 1.3 × 1.3 mm, cream, papillate, with a short rostrum. **Pollinia** 4, 1 mm long, flat, white, mealy, incoherent. **Stigma** semi-circular, 1 mm diameter sunken. **Capsule** erect 10.2–12.0 mm long, ovoid to ovoid-ellipsoid, green often with purple stripes.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to *Caladenia chlorostyla* from which it differs by its mostly solitary, white flowers or greenish-white flowers. The labellum is usually uniformly white but on rare occasions it can be transversely faintly pink-barred. This species is very close to *C. minor* and is regarded by many as simply a colour-variant of it.

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

January–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007. Description modified from Jones et al. (1997).

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, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM. 2001. A New Classification of *Caladenia* R.Br. (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13(9): 389–419. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310770#page/1/mode/1up>.
- 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.
- 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. *The Journal of Botany* 62: 65–67. https://archive.bsbi.org/Journal_of_Botany_1924.pdf

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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