

Corybas confusus

COMMON NAME

spider orchid

SYNONYMS

None - described in 2016

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Corybas confusus Lehnebach

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, seasonal orchid. Leaves solitary heart-shaped or broadly ovate, distinctly mucronate. Flowers solitary, dark maroon.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, possibly the Chatham Islands (where plants currently referred to *C. aff. sulcatus* approach it).

HABITAT

A species of primarily beech (*Lophozonia* (Nothofagaceae)) forest, montane to subalpine scrub and tussock grassland, in damp mossy areas ranging from 1000–1100 m a.s.l.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial herbs, 12–30 mm tall at flowering. **Leaf** distinctly petiolate, petiole 2.8–31.4 mm long; lamina cordiform to widely ovate, 9.7–19.0 × 10.8–21.3 mm; margin entire; apex mucronate with mucro 0.1–2.2 mm long. **Flower** solitary, held erect on a peduncle 0.6–7.8 mm long; **floral bract** triangular to widely deltoid when flattened, 1.0–6.6 × 1.3–3.0 mm; **dorsal sepal** dark or light green, with red-maroon streaks and blotches towards the apex, arching over the labellum, concave to cucullate, narrow at the base and spatulate towards the tip, apex obtuse or slightly retuse; **lateral sepals** linear-filiform, whitish or red to maroon, 13.1–46.1 mm long; **petals** similar to the lateral sepals but longer, 27–75 mm long; **labellum** dark red to maroon with a pale green to yellowish centre, auriculate at base, aperture 0.8–3.0 mm in diameter; lamina deflexed, c. 7–10 mm wide, with a central groove formed by an inwards folding of the lamina, extending downwards almost to the lower margin and sunken pit formed at the point where the lamina bends, upper margin incurving, mostly entire but finely erose or laciniate towards the lower margin, apex notched, inner surface covered with small hairs. **Ovary** 3.0–7.6 mm long. **Column** 2.1 mm long, straight, with truncate to emarginate wings at either side of the stigma.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Corybas trilobus* from which it differs by its widely ovate to cordiform, distinctly mucronate leaf and dark maroon labellum. *Corybas confusus* resembles *C. obscurus* in the dark maroon colour of the labellum but differs from that species by its dark to light green dorsal sepal with obtuse to slightly retuse apex that extends beyond the labellum.

FLOWERING

October–December

FLOWER COLOURS

Purple, Red/Pink

FRUITING

November–January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

No Threatened.

ETYMOLOGY

corybas: Helmet flower

confusus: In reference to the difficult of identification and the confusion caused through general similarity to other plants

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet for NZPCN prepared by P.J. de Lange (13 August 2016). Description from Lehnebach et al. (2016)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lehnebach CA, Zeller AJ, Frericks J, Ritchie P. 2016. Five new species of *Corybas* (Diurideae, Orchidaceae) endemic to New Zealand and phylogeny of the *Nematoceras* clade. *Phytotaxa* 270(1): 1–24.

<https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.270.1.1>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-confusus/>