

Corybas sanctigeorgianus

COMMON NAME

spider orchid

SYNONYMS

Previously known by the tag name "trisept".

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Corybas sanctigeorgianus Lehnebach

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial, seasonal orchid. Leaves solitary kidney-shaped to heart-shaped, distinctly acuminate. Flowers solitary, central portion white otherwise dark red towards the margins, surface of labellum covered with short trichomes.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Hunua Ranges).

HABITAT

In lowland mixed broad-leaf / podocarp forest, growing in skeletal soils covered in leaf litter and on the trunk bases of tree ferns.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial herbs, 14–20 mm tall at flowering. **Leaf** distinctly petiolate, petiole 9.0–22.6 mm long; lamina reniform to cordiform, 8.5–13.8 × 12.6–20.3 mm; margin entire; apex acuminate 1.5–3.3 mm long. **Flower** solitary, held erect on a peduncle 2.5–4.4 mm long; floral bract ovate when flattened, 3.74–7.6 × 2.0–2.7 mm; dorsal sepal light green with a few blotches of dark red, arching over the labellum, concave to cucullate, narrow at the base and wide towards the tip, apex rounded or slightly mucronate; lateral sepals linear-filiform, white or translucent with dark red specks, 11.8–19.8 mm long; petals similar to the lateral sepals but longer, 32.8–53.3 mm long; labellum white in the centre, dark red towards the margins, and covered with short trichomes, auriculate at base; aperture 1.5–2.1 mm diameter; lamina deflexed, c. 5 mm wide, with a central groove formed by the inward folding of the lamina, extending downwards half way the lamina and sunken pit formed at the point where the lamina bends, lateral margins incurve, mostly entire, lower margin lacinate to finally denticulate. **Ovary** 3.3–5.3 mm long. **Column** 1.8 mm long, straight, with truncate column wings on both sides of the stigma.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



SIMILAR TAXA

Corybas sanctigeorgianus is most similar to *Corybas hypogaeus* with respect to its flower and leaf shape but it can be distinguished from that species by its straight ovary, labellum with a white centre and dorsal sepal extending beyond the labellum. It differs from *Corybas trilobus* by its long dorsal sepal and the white centre of the labellum.

FLOWERING

August–September

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October–November

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Lehnebach et al. (2016) assessed *Corybas sanctigeorgianus* using the New Zealand Threat Classification System (NZTCS) as 'Threatened / Nationally Critical' observing that it "is only known from the type locality where a population of about hundred individuals occurs". It has subsequently been found at a second Hunua Range location. Based on this, and because it is a newly recognised taxon within a variable complex of poorly understood species, the NZTCS vascular plant panel assessed it as 'Data Deficient'.

ETYMOLOGY

corybas: Helmet flower

sanctigeorgianus: Named after Dr Ian St George, a New Zealand born and based medical practitioner, amateur orchidologist and botanical historian

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN 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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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-sanctigeorgianus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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