Corybas vitreus

COMMON NAME
spider orchid

SYNONYMS
None - first described in 2016

FAMILY
Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY
Corybas vitreus 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, distinctly mucronate. Flowers solitary, central portion mostly translucent ('glass-like').
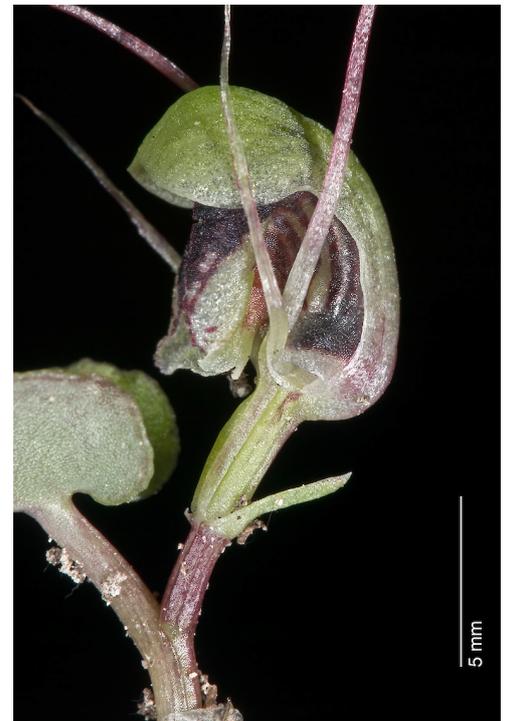
DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (southern), South Island.

HABITAT
Locally common in beech forest (*Fuscospora* or *Lophozonia* (Nothofagaceae)) and *Kunzea* / *Leptospermum* schrubland / forest, usually growing in leaf litter at elevations between 600 to 1300 m.

Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/08/2007, Licence: CC BY.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial herbs, 14–30 mm tall at flowering. **Leaf** distinctly petiolate, petiole 3.3–24.7 mm long; lamina cordiform, 3.3–14.1 × 7.8–19.6 mm; margin entire; apex mucronate with mucro 0.2–2.8 mm long. **Flower** solitary, held erect on a peduncle 0.7–8.1 mm long; floral bract triangular to widely deltoid when flattened, 1.8–6.8 × 1.3–3.2 mm; **dorsal sepal** pale green and less often with a few maroon streaks, concave to cucullate, arching over the labellum, narrow at the base and widely spathulate towards the tip, apex retuse to emarginated; **lateral sepals** linear-filiform, whitish to pale maroon, 12.0–26.7 mm long; **petals** similar to the lateral sepals but longer, 21.3–56.5 mm long; labellum lamina mostly translucent, less often with a few streaks of maroon, covered with short trichomes, auriculate at base, aperture 1.2–2.6 mm in diameter; **lamina** deflexed, c. 7 mm wide, with a central groove formed by the inwards folding of the lamina, extending downwards half way the labellum and sunken pit formed at the point where the lamina bends; lateral margin of the labellum incurving, entire, with a non-isometric dark maroon to purple band, lower margin translucent, straight and erose. **Ovary** 4.5–8.4 mm long. **Column** 1.8 mm long, straight, round wings flanking the stigma. Senescent flowers with apex of the dorsal sepal pressing against the labellum blocking access to the column.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Corybas vitreus is morphologically close to _C. walliae_ both having a similar overall pale coloured flower but *C. vitreus* differs from *C. walliae* by its translucent labellum lamina with a non-isometric, dark maroon to purple band along the lateral margin and straight translucent lower margin. *Corybas vitreus* is distinguished from _C. trilobus_ by its broadly ovate flower in frontal view and emarginate to retuse dorsal sepal.

FLOWERING

September–October

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

FRUITING

November – early January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Not Threatened.

ETYMOLOGY

corybas: Helmet flower
vitreus: Meaning 'of glass or glassy' as in transparent, glass-like and often green tinged

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Corybas vitreus Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-vitreus/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corybas-vitreus/