

Drymoanthus adversus

COMMON NAME

fleshy tree orchid

SYNONYMS

Sarcochilus adversus Hook.f.; *Sarcochilus breviscapa* Col.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Drymoanthus adversus (Hook.f.) Dockrill

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

DRYADV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 76

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

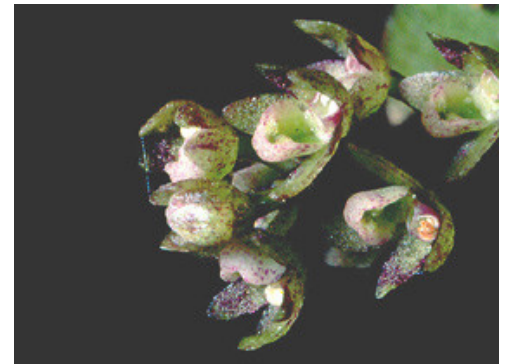
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island (uncommon in the southern two-thirds where it is virtually replaced by *D. flavus* St George et Molloy), Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Epiphytic, rupestral or terrestrial. Mostly on the trunks and branches of shrubs and taller forest trees but also on rocks, cliff faces, banks and fallen, moss covered logs.



Silverstream, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/10/2006, Licence: CC BY.



At Te Moehau, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Conspicuous tufted epiphyte of trunks and branches relatively clean of other epiphytic plants. Occasionally found on rock outcrops and cliff faces. Forming branched, leafy, tufts (40)–120–(150) mm diameter, with many white to brown, cord-like roots firmly attached to substrate. Lower parts covered in old leaf and inflorescence bases.

Leaves (40)–60–(90) × 15–20–(30) mm, dark green, occasionally purple spotted, fleshy, elliptic, oblong, elliptic-oblong, with obtuse to emarginate, flat or twisted apices. **Inflorescences** racemose arising from or below the leaves, usually several per season; up to 80 mm long, bearing (1)–6–(20) flowers. **Flowers** green or greenish-white, flecked with red, maroon or purple. **Sepals and petals** subequal, spreading widely but projecting forwards and inwards to form a cup. **Dorsal sepal** 3.5–4.5 × 1.5–2.0 mm, lateral sepals shorter, petals 2.5–3.5 × 1.5–1.8 mm. **Labellum** 2.5 × 2.0 mm, projected forwards, immobile, cupular, deeply channelled, mid-lobe evident only as a cucullate apex; lateral lobes forming sides of clog-shaped structure and each furnished with an internally projecting, partly transverse ridge, distal portion distinctly thickened, fleshy, bearing two prominent upright, flattened calli. **Capsule** 20 × 6 mm, broadly cylindrical to fusiform, green, usually without spots.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Drymoanthus flavus* from which it differs by its larger size, thicker (rather than thinner), distinctly fleshy (rather than coriaceous), elliptic to oblong (rather than elliptic to lanceolate), glossy (rather than dull), obtuse to emarginate (rather than acute), mostly dark green, rarely spotted (rather than pale green and spotted) leaves, green to greenish-white flowers flecked with red, maroon or purple (rather than greenish-yellow flowers lacking spots), cupular (rather than broadly trough-shaped) labellum with the distal portion bearing two prominent, upright, flattened calli (rather than none), uniformly green, rarely spotted (rather than spotted) capsules, and tetraploid (rather than diploid) chromosome number.

FLOWERING

September–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

November–May

LIFE CYCLE

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Plants can be grown by strapping them to a log, or wood slab and placing them suspended in a sheltered, warm position. Water frequently until well established. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

adversus: From the Latin adversus ‘turned towards’, ‘before’ or ‘opposite’

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 April 2007). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drymoanthus-adversus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drymoanthus-adversus/>