

Nematoceras panduratum

COMMON NAME

spider orchid

SYNONYMS

Corysanthes rotundifolia var. *pandurata* Cheeseman

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Nematoceras panduratum (Cheeseman) Molloy, D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island.

HABITAT

Lowland. Confined to wet, shaded sites within tall indigenous forest. Usually found along stream sides, but also on seepages on cliff faces and within talus slopes.



Okahu Creek, Kaitaia on 23/10/05.

Photographer: Eric Scanlen, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Colonial, terrestrial, tuberous, glabrous, late winter to summer-green herb. Tuberoids globose to ellipsoid on extended roots. Plant at flowering to 40 mm tall. **Leaf** solitary (rarely paired), fleshy, subsessile or with a short petiole 5–10 mm long; lamina 20–30 × 15–25 mm long, oval- to orbicular-pandurate, apiculate, rounded to cordate at base; dark green to yellow green, margins and sometimes whole of upper surface flecked with purple or red, underside silvery pellucid. **Flower** erect, mostly large for plant, (15)–20–(25) mm long, held well above leaf, mostly dark crimson black; peduncle short and stout, 2.5–3.5 mm long. **Ovary** 8.5–10.0 mm long, narrowly oblong to ellipsoid, yellow-green, erect or slightly curving forward over leaf; subtended by two unequal floral bracts, the smaller projecting toward leaf, 1.5–2.0 mm long, linear-subulate to lanceolate-subulate, terete, pale green to cream, spotted or flecked with crimson, the larger smaller than, equal to or exceeding the ovary, (2.5)–8.8–(11.0) mm long, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, curved, deeply keeled and mostly closely sheathing ovary for about $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ of length, apex acute, green, usually with purple or reddish striae or flecks. **Dorsal sepal** membranous, more or less equal to labellum length 15–20 mm long, greenish with purple-red crimson-black striate or flecks, lanceolate-acuminate, apex acute, erect then arched forwards, or downwards, very rarely upwards. **Lateral sepals and petals** subsimilar, 20–30 mm long, filiform, greatly exceeding labellum, cream to yellow green more or less flecked with red, held well above leaf. **Labellum** conspicuous, dark crimson-black, auriculate at base; labellum tube 1.5–3 mm long, erect at first then abruptly deflexed at c. 90 degrees and expanding into a gradually broadening lamina; lamina (15)–20–(25) × (6)–10–(16) mm, narrowly obtuse when flattened, upper margins sharply folded inwards, upper third to half more or less overlapping, lower surface spreading and deeply grooved; apex usually held well above leaf; margins initially entire, becoming erose to finely and irregularly denticulate on either side, and with a short to moderately long down-curved apiculus; apiculus not or only rarely touching leaf.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Very doubtfully distinct from *Corybas rivularis* from which it only seems to differ by its consistently pandurate leaf. The pandurate leaf was the only distinction offered by Cheeseman (1925) in his protologue.

FLOWERING

September–November

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Red/Pink

FRUITING

October–December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

panduratum: Fiddle-shaped

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Considerable research is underway to investigate the validity of the segregate genera split from *Corybas* R.Br. by Jones et al. (2002). Whilst much of that work has yet to be published, on advice from Australian Orchidologists Peter Weston and Stephen Hopper (pers. comm., July 2011, November 2014), all of the segregate genera recognised for New Zealand by Jones et al. (2002) are returned to *Corybas*. An exception is *Nematoceras* Hook.f., for which valid combinations for some of the taxa recognised within it (and regarded here as distinct species), have yet to be made in *Corybas*.

Note that this orchid does not have a valid combination in *Corybas*. It is also doubtful as to whether it is a valid species or merely an infrequently occurring mutation in *Corybas rivularis* sens. str. No combination was provided for it by Lehnebach (2016) suggesting that he too doubts the validity of recognising this as a distinct species.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007. Description based on herbarium specimens and live material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Jones DL, Clements MA, Sharma IK, Mackenzie AM, Molloy BPJ. 2002. Nomenclatural notes arising from studies into the Tribe *Diurideae* (Orchidaceae). *The Orchadian* 13(10): 437–468.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/61852896#page/5/mode/1up>.

Lehnebach C. 2016. New combinations and a replacement name for three New Zealand spider orchids (Corybas). *The New Zealand Native Orchid Journal* 139: 4–5.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nematoceras-panduratum/>