

Waireia stenopetala

COMMON NAME

yellow beaks, beak orchid, horizontal orchid,

SYNONYMS

Lyperanthus antarcticus Hook.f., *Thelymitra stenopetala* Hook. f.

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Waireia stenopetala (Hook.f.) D.L.Jones, M.A.Clem., et Molloy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

WAISTE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (known only from the eastern slopes of Mt Ruapehu and from the Tararua Range), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Wet, peaty places at higher elevations in the north, down to sea level in the south.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Arthurs Pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Auckland Islands. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Summer-green, leafy, glabrous, tuberous, perennial herb. Tubers paired or in threes, globose to conical. Plant at flower up to 400 mm tall, plant sharply elongating at fruiting. All parts fleshy. **Stem** erect, terete. **Leaves** (1)–2–(3), widely spaced and reducing in size up stem, basal leaf 80–150 x 15–20 mm, dark green, narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, concave, apex acute, dark green to bronze green, rarely flecked brown. **Floral bracts** closely sheathing and overtopping ovary, leaf-like, colour as for leaves. **Flowers** (1)–3–(6) in short racemes, inclined away from bracts. **Perianth** 10–20 mm long, yellow-green, or green, usually spotted red-brown. **Sepals** acute; dorsal sepal rather broadly ovate, cucullate, deeply concave, arching over and obscuring most of the rest of the flower; lateral sepals smaller, yellow-green or green, linear, sharply deflexed. **Petals** slightly shorter again, yellow-green or green, linear-lanceolate, subacute, deflexed or patent. **Labellum** erect, broad-ovate, narrowed abruptly to a short fixed claw; margin entire, callose ridges present and extending toward labellum apex. **Column** elongate-cylindric, curved, wing very narrow, finely lobed about anther. **Anther** terminal, papillose, with two initially coherent, pollinia per cell, finely granular. **Stigma** prominent, discoid; rostellum median.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to native orchids of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

None

FLOWERING

November–March

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

January–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

stenopetala: From the Greek stenos (narrow) and petalum (petal), narrow petalled

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Waireia is a recent segregate from *Lyperanthus*.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1997).

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/waireia-stenopetala/>