



PLANT

Prasophyllum occultans

Hidden Leek-orchid

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	R	E	State	Perennial

Family ORCHIDACEAE



Photo: © Cathy Houston

Conservation Significance

Endemic to SA.² The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.⁴

Description

Dull green-brown leek-orchid. Slender, to 30 cm tall. Leaf wholly green or with a red base. Flowers few to 15 in a loose spike, greenish, about 6 mm across.^{2,5} Plants usually well hidden under shrubs and not easily located.²

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in EP, YP, SL, KI and SE regions. Very rare on KI and Fleurieu Peninsula.² Probably common before European settlement but becoming rarer due to loss of habitat.²

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records from two disparate locations, near Kangarilla and Victor Harbor.⁴

There are no pre-1983 records.⁴

Habitat

Plants occur singly or in small groups in well-grassed open forests.³

Habitats recorded include:

- mallee-broombush or in low scrub about rock outcrops in the Lower North wheat-belt
- on shallow soils over rock, including limestone, often with other Leek-orchids^{2,6}
- near Native Pine woodland with mixed shrubs on sandy soil, along with *Prasophyllum occidentale* and *P. pallidum*, and growing under *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* in the AMLR.⁵

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland and Mallee.⁴

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.⁴

Biology and Ecology

Flowers from September to November.^{2,3} Flowers are self-pollinating.⁶

Does not require disturbance or fire to induce flowering.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri Nation and Peramangk Nation (bordering Kurna Nation).⁴

Orchidaceae species are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The small tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).¹

Threats

The species has disappeared from three known sites in SL and SE due to road works, a quarry extension and a sand borrow pit (R. Bates *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR, the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.⁴

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008

Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁴ Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Australian National Botanic Gardens (2007). *Aboriginal Plant Use - NSW Southern Tablelands*. Available from <http://www.anbg.gov.au/apu/index.html> (accessed August 2007).

2 Bates, R. J., ed. (2007). *South Australian Native Orchids. Electronic version, August 2007*. Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

3 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Prasophyllum pallidum Nicholls*. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed July 2007).

4 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

5 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

6 Jones, D. L. (2006). *A complete guide to native orchids of Australia including the island territories*. New Holland Publishers, Australia.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008

Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



Government
of South Australia