



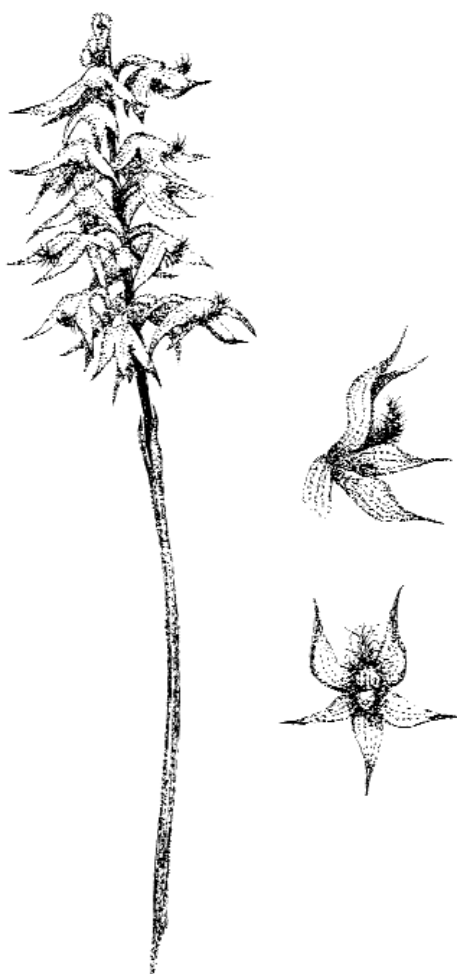
THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

Brindabella Midge Orchid (*Corunastylis ectopa*)

An endangered species

Issued: 26 May 2006

Corunastylis ectopa is a terrestrial tuberous herb that grows singly. The solitary leaf is cylindrical, 10-25 cm long by 0.15-0.3 cm wide and dark green to reddish at the base. The leaf encloses the flowering stem for most of its length. The inflorescence is 15-30 cm tall, bearing 15-35 flowers in a densely crowded spike 2-4 cm in length. The flowers are 5-5.5 mm in diameter and are either green and reddish purple or wholly reddish purple.



Currently, *C. ectopa* is endemic to the ACT and is known from a single site only in the Brindabella Range. It grows on a steep slope with a northerly aspect in a tall forest (*Eucalyptus robertsonii*). Its geographic distribution is very restricted and therefore is declared as endangered.

The species is a seasonal perennial, shooting from a dormant underground tuber after summer rain. In the absence of rain at the appropriate season the plants remain dormant. The buds develop rapidly and flowering is in progress about six weeks after the initialising rain event, typically from late January to March.

Germinating seed require interaction with a mycorrhizal fungal host. After setting seed the aerial portion of the plant withers and tubers remain dormant over the subsequent season until the next substantial summer rain.

POTENTIAL CONSERVATION THREATS

The small nature of the single population and its close proximity to a road embankment, makes it susceptible to disturbance or destruction from erosion of the embankment, small landslides and possible future roadworks.

Macropod grazing and changed fire frequency can induce changes in the surrounding vegetation which may also pose a threat to this population.

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CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Actions to assist with the conservation of the species include:

- Development of a conservation management plan for the site supporting this species.
- Maintaining alertness to the possible presence of the species while conducting surveys in appropriate habitat.
- Implementing a monitoring program for the species with particular attention to seedling establishment and inspection for site disturbance or damage.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on this or other threatened species and ecological communities can be obtained from:

Environment ACT
Wildlife Research and Monitoring
Phone: (02) 6207 2126
Fax: (02) 6207 2122
Website: www.environment.act.gov.au

Acknowledgement

The illustration of the species was prepared for Environment ACT by Lesley Wallington.

This information sheet draws heavily on information in the 2004 nomination to the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee prepared by Peter Milburn and Dean Rouse.

References

Jones, D.L. (1999) *Genoplesium ectopum* (Orchidaceae), an endangered new species from the Australian Capital Territory. *Orchadian* 12(12): 570-573.