



Ghost Spider-orchid *Caladenia* sp. 'Brentwood'

Critically Endangered

Description

Caladenia sp. 'Brentwood' is an annual, terrestrial orchid. It has a single hairy leaf (5-20 cm long) that emerges in winter. It produces a single flower stem in Aug-Sept (10-35 cm tall) with one or two flowers. The flowers are white, with red fringes on the lip (labellum), which is curled under. The petals and sepals (3-4 cm long) have reddish tips, and are stiffly spread.



Flower and bud of *Caladenia* sp. 'Brentwood' J. Quarmby

Distribution and abundance

C. sp. 'Brentwood' is endemic to South Australia and is currently known from only two isolated populations on the Yorke Peninsula. Its range extends from Brentwood in the west to Stansbury in the east. The population size of *C.* sp. 'Brentwood' was estimated to be approximately 450 mature plants in 2007.

Conservation Rating

C. sp. 'Brentwood' has been nominated as nationally **Critically Endangered** under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is only known from two very small populations, has a very restricted and fragmented distribution.

Habitat

C. sp. 'Brentwood' grows in *Eucalyptus porosa* (Mallee Box) and *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak) woodland. The understorey usually includes *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* (Native Apricot), *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Broom Honey-myrtle), *Gahnia lanigera* (Desert Saw-sedge), and *Lasiopetalum behrii* (Pink Velvet Bush). It usually grows in red sandy loam soils, on calcrete rises.



Typical habitat of *Caladenia* sp. 'Brentwood'. J. Quarmby

Distribution of *Caladenia* sp. 'Brentwood' in South Australia.



Threats



Climate Change



Weed Invasion



Vegetation Clearance



Herbivory



Recreation



Rubbish Dumping



Trampling



Illegal Collection

C. sp. 'Brentwood' is under particular threat from weed invasion, especially from Bridal Creeper, Freesia and Box Thorn. Vegetation clearance, illegal collection and trampling are also threats to *C. sp. 'Brentwood'*.

Recovery Actions

C. sp. 'Brentwood' is included in a recovery plan for 12 threatened orchids in the Lofty Block region, which outlines strategies and actions for species recovery, including:

- Monitoring population size and trends.
- Surveying historical and potential habitat for populations.
- Mitigating the threats to populations (eg weed control, rabbit control *etc.*).
- Protecting and managing habitat (eg protecting land under Heritage Agreement, fencing *etc.*).
- Collecting and preserving seed and mycorrhizal fungi.
- Preparing and implementing translocation proposals.
- Undertaking research related to the ecology and biology of the species.
- Informing, encouraging and supporting landholders and the community.

How you can help

If you think you have seen *C. sp. 'Brentwood'* please report it to the Department for Environment and Heritage (see contacts below).

You can also volunteer your time to assist with surveys, monitoring, weed control, fencing, and other recovery actions for the species.



Pollinator on *Caladenia sp. 'Brentwood'*. J. Quarmby

Further reading

Quarmby J.P (2006) *Recovery plan for 12 threatened orchids in the Lofty Block region of South Australia 2007-2012*. Department for Environment and Heritage, Adelaide.

www.environment.sa.gov.au

For Further information please contact

Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Project Officer
Department for Environment and Heritage

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