

Caladenia magnifica Magnificent Spider-orchid

Taxonomy

Caladenia magnifica (Nicholls) D.L.Jones & G.W.Carr

The name *C. magnifica* has been attributed wrongly to other taxa. It differs from other species in the *C. patersonii* group in having large, dark-coloured flowers and a blackish labellum.

Description

Flowering plant c. 20–30 cm tall. Leaf 10–15 cm long, 15–20 mm wide, spotted with red at base. Flowers 1 or 2; perianth segments 6–10 cm long, entirely reddish crimson or yellowish, streaked and speckled with crimson, the tips red to blackish; sepals stiffly spreading, flattened at base, 3–5.5 mm wide, tapered to a long tail densely covered in sessile glands; petals shorter than sepals but otherwise similar. Labellum curved forward with apex recurved and lateral lobes erect, lamina oblong-triangular, very obscurely 3-lobed, 18–22 mm long and 16–20 mm wide (when flattened), purplish-black, apex somewhat fleshy; margins of lateral lobes fringed with linear calli to 4 mm long, margins of mid-lobe with shorter calli becoming tooth-like near tip; lamina calli in 4–6 rows extending just beyond the bend, foot-shaped, c. 2 mm long at base of lamina, decreasing in size towards apex. Flowers Sep.–Oct. (VicFlora 2021).

Current conservation status

Listed as Threatened in Victoria under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (SAC 1996).

Categorised as 'Presumed extinct in Victoria' in the 2014 Advisory list of rare or threatened plants in Victoria (DEPI 2014).

Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 6,780 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *C. magnifica* since 1992.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results

Number of known historical locations	4
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Last known record	1992
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	6780
Survey methods searched	External data, Monitoring, Quadrat,

***External data:** Additional observation records collected by third parties, **Monitoring:** Observations recorded from surveys of bushfire hazard mapping surveys, pre-harvest surveys, indicator- or all-species assessments, etc. **Quadrat:** Square vegetation quadrats to measure vegetation attributes of an area (plant density, frequency, biomass, etc.)

Historical distribution

The taxon was best known from the Clydesdale area of central Victoria in open forested slopes on well-drained stony soil, but other records indicate that this species was sporadically distributed throughout central Victoria. It has not been seen since 1979 (VicFlora 2021).

References

DEPI (2014) *Advisory list of rare or threatened plants in Victoria - 2014*. Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Melbourne. Retrieved from:

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/50448/Advisory-List-of-Rare-or-Threatened-Plants-in-Victoria-2014.pdf

SAC (1996). Flora and Fauna Guarantee Scientific Advisory Committee: Final Recommendation on a Nomination for Listing. Nomination No. 382 *Caladenia magnifica*.

VicFlora (2021). Flora of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria: *Caladenia magnifica*. Retrieved from: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/e8f15233-3f6d-4042-bdcb-b4a6d98c006f>