

A close-up photograph of three purple native terrestrial orchids in bloom. The flowers have five petals each, with a lighter, almost white, center where the reproductive parts are located. The petals are a vibrant purple color. The background is a blurred natural setting with brown and green tones.

Native Terrestrial Orchids

Wendy Grimm
STEP, APS, ANOS
STEP 2025

Native Terrestrial Orchids

*I'd like to begin by
acknowledging
the Traditional Custodians of
the land on which I have taken
images of these plants.*

*Just as we know that yams
were a valued food along the
river flats, it is likely that the
tubers of many species of
orchid were used by
First Nations Communities.*

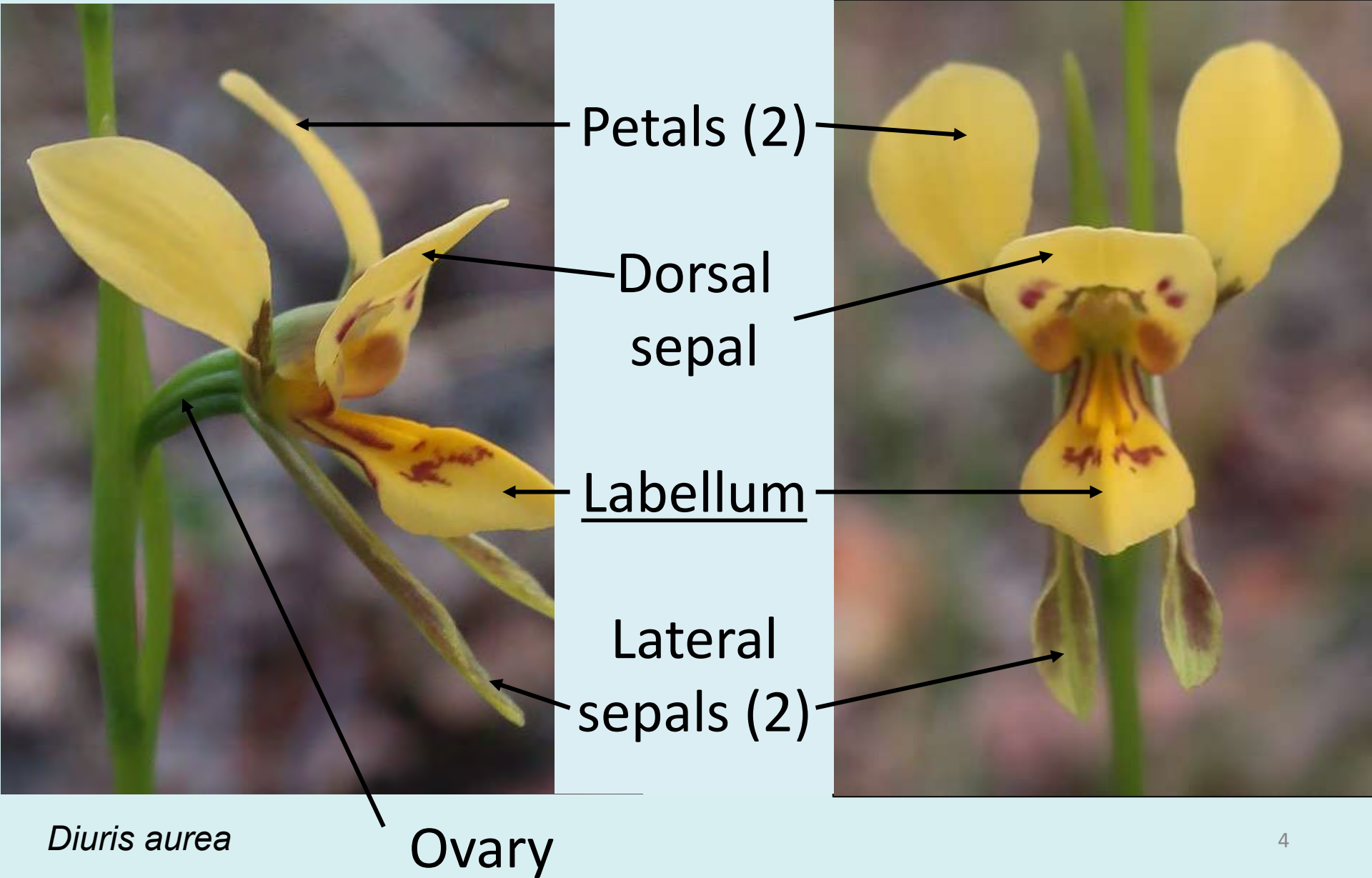


Wendy Grimm
August 2025

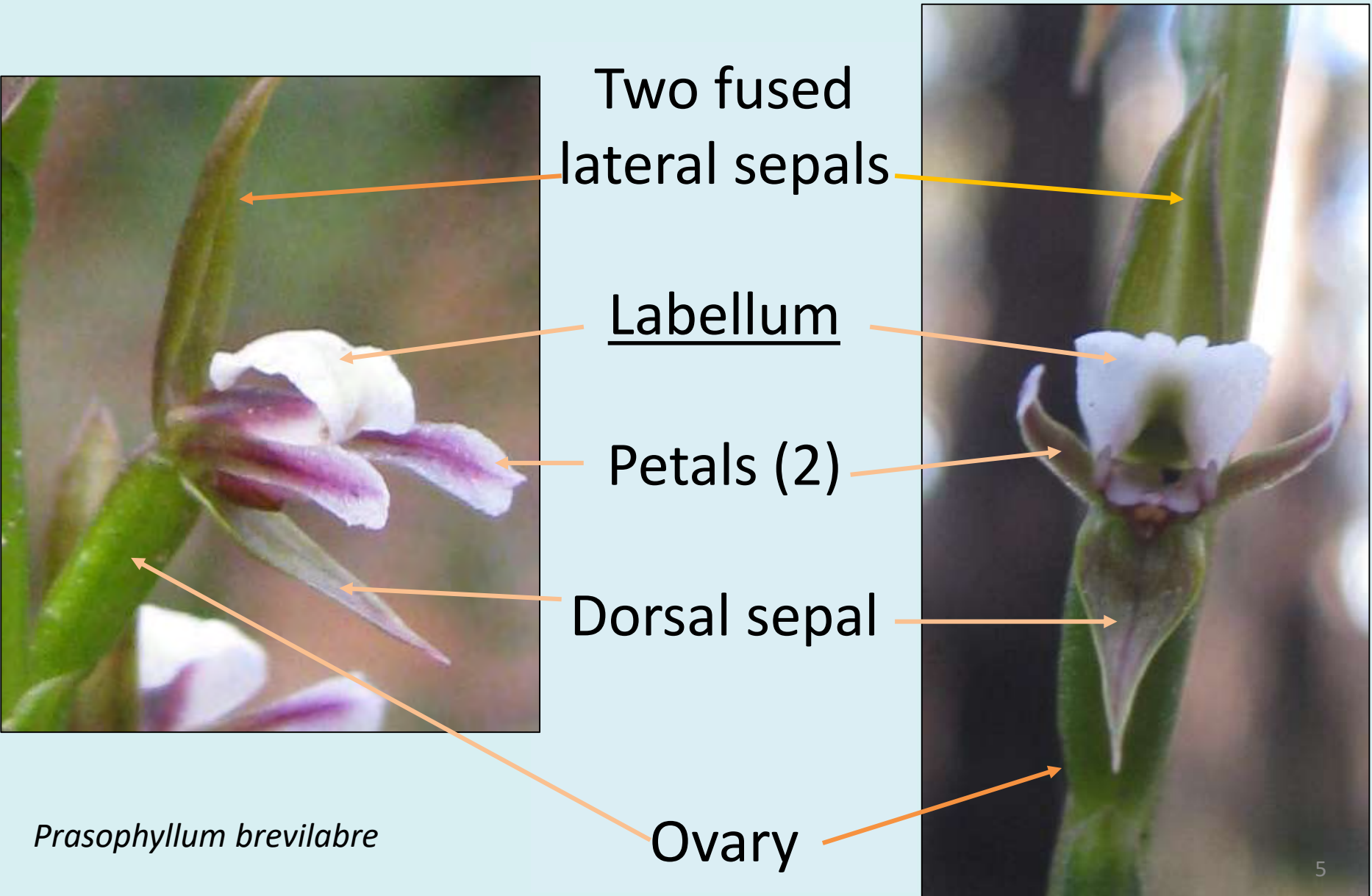
Terrestrial (ground) orchids

- ground orchids are perennial plants
- they may flower each year for several years
- not all plants produce flowers
- flowering times are spread through the year
- orchids are most easily seen along track edges
- my photos are grouped by genus
- within a genus, the labellum or lip petal helps to identify the species

Flower parts – resupinate flowers



Flower parts – non-resupinate flowers



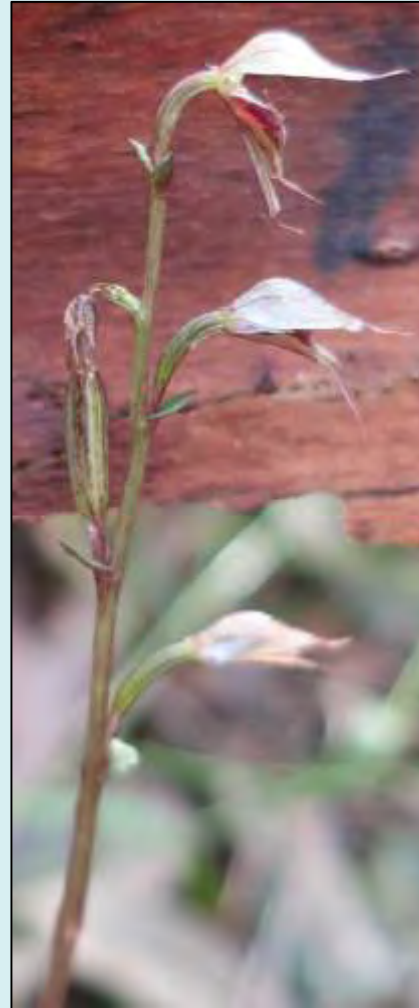
Acianthus orchids (Mar-Sep)



A. exsertus
Gnat Orchid



A. pusillus
Small Mosquito

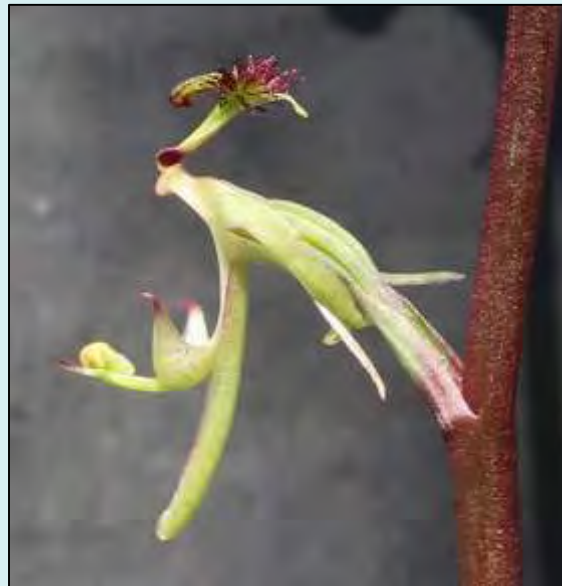


A. fornicatus
Pixie Caps



A. caudatus
Mayfly Orchid

Wispy Elbow orchid (flowers Nov-Dec, leaves Feb-July)



Arthrochilus prolixus - inflorescence, single flower, rosette of leaves

Australian Christmas Orchid (Nov-Feb)



Calanthe (triplicata) australasica

Finger or Fairy Orchids (May-Oct)



Caladenia alata Fairy



C. carnea Pink Fingers



C. catenata White



C. fuscata Dusky



C. caerulea Blue



Caladenia leaf

Wax-lip orchids (Aug-Sep)



Glossodia major
(*Caladenia major*)

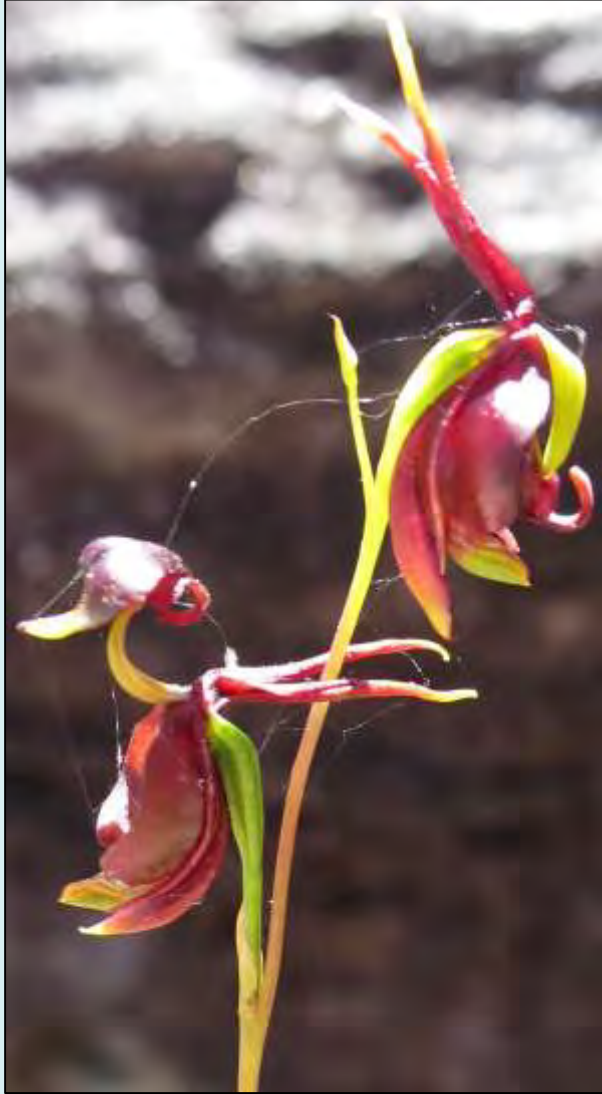
Waxlip Orchid

Glossodia minor
(*Caladenia glossodia*)

Small Waxlip Orchid



Duck orchids (Sep-Jan)



Labellum of top
flower triggered
and closed over
column



Caleana major
Large Duck Orchid



Caleana minor
Small Duck Orchid

Beard Orchids (Sep-Jan)



*Calochilus
campestris*
Copper Beard



*Calochilus
gracimillus*
Slender Beard



*Calochilus
paludosus*
Red Beard



*Calochilus
robertsonii*
Purplish Beard

Wasp or Ant Orchids (autumn & spring)



Common

Chiloglottis diphylla



C. reflexa



Tall

Bare-tipped

C. seminuda



C. formicifera

Ant



C. trapeziformis

Broad-lip



Chiloglottis leaves

Midge orchids of the Hornsby Plateau (Dec-May)



Corunastylis
densa

Dense



Corunastylis
filiformis



Corunastylis
fimbriata



Corunastylis
fimbriata
Pale form

Fringed

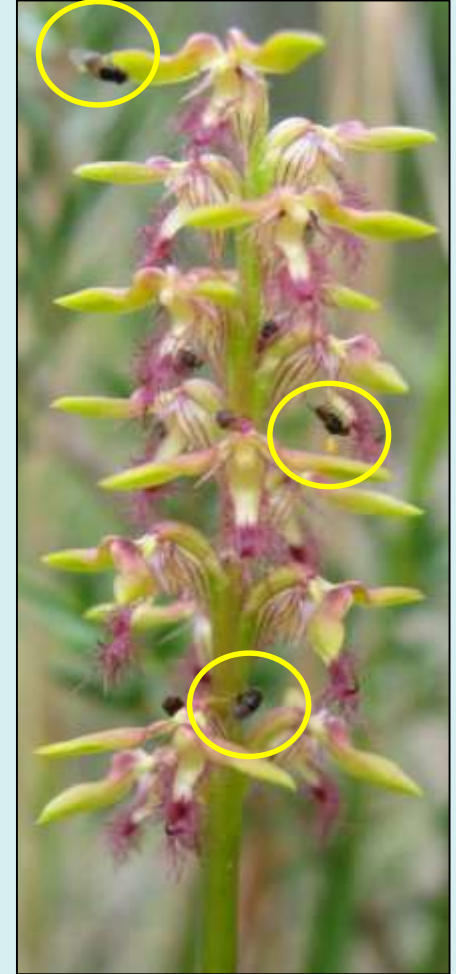
Midge orchids (Dec-May)



Corunastylis pumila
Green Midge Orchid



Corunastylis ruppii
Rupp's Midge Orchid



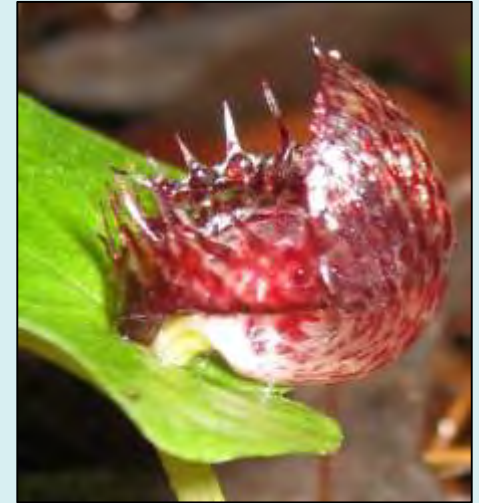
Chloropid flies on
midge orchid

Helmet orchids (May-Jul)



*Corybas
aconitiflorus*
Spurred
Helmet Orchid

*Corybas
fimbriatus*
Fringed



Corybas pruinosis
Toothed



C. undulatus
Tailed



C. unguiculatus
Small

Tongue orchids (Oct-Feb)



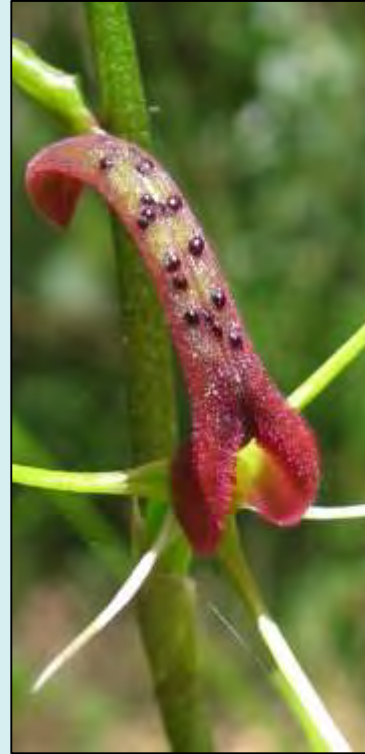
*Cryptostylis
erecta*

Bonnet Orchid



*Cryptostylis
hunteriana*

Leafless



*Cryptostylis
leptochila*

Small



*Cryptostylis
subulata*

Large

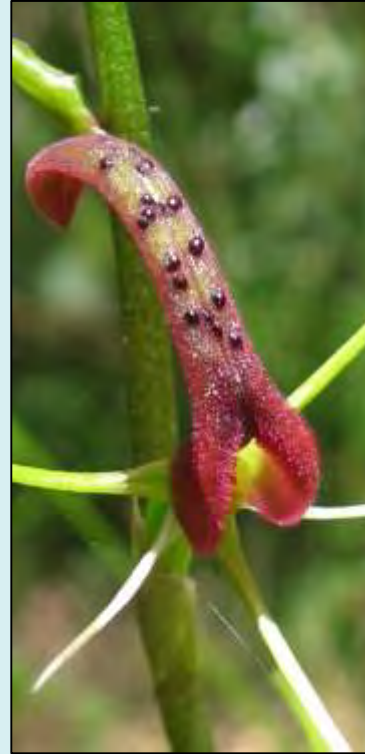
Tongue orchids (Oct-Feb)



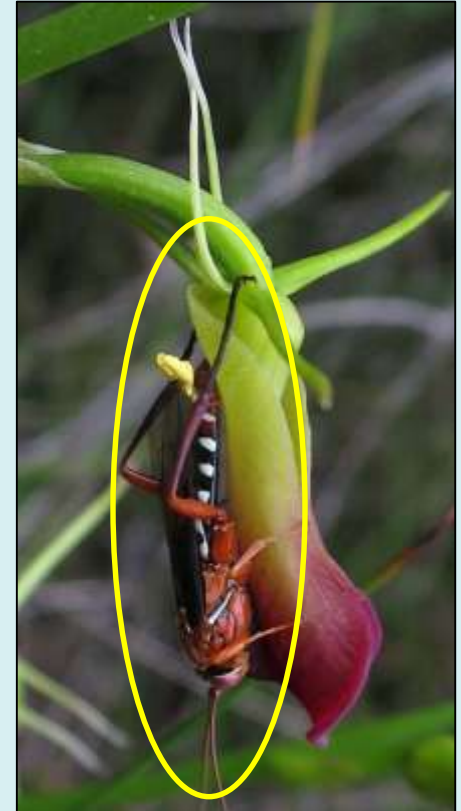
*Cryptostylis
erecta*



**Cryptostylis
hunteriana*



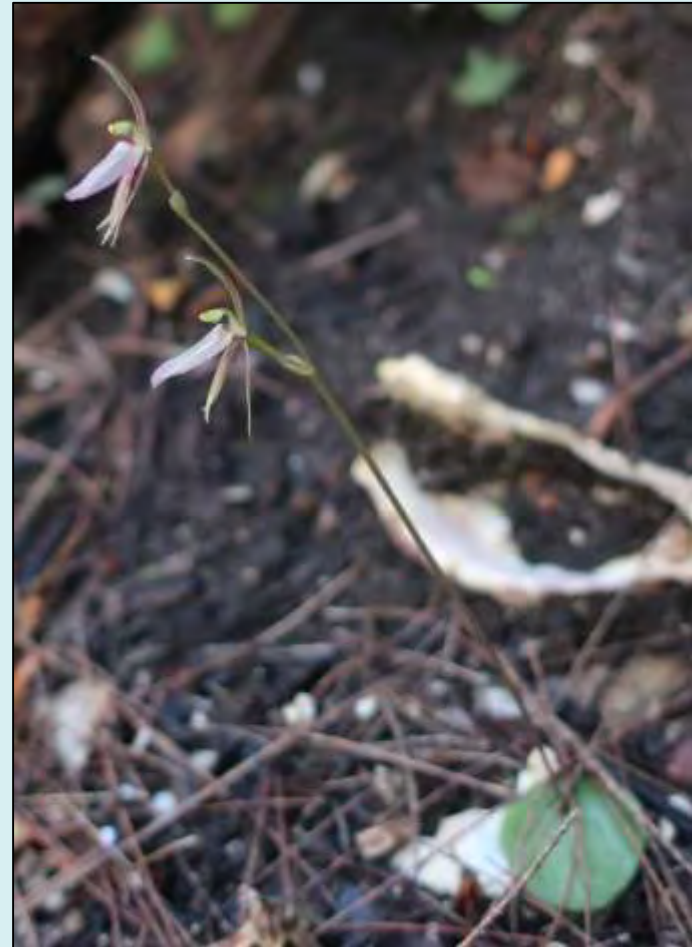
*Cryptostylis
leptochila*



*Cryptostylis
subulata*

All flowers are pollinated by the same species of wasp (*Lissopimpla excelsa*)

Cyrtostylis orchids (Jun-Nov)



Cyrtostylis reniformis

Small Gnat Orchid

Hyacinth orchids (Oct-Mar)



Dipodium roseum
Rosy Hyacinth



Dipodium variegatum
Blotched Hyacinth

Donkey orchids (Aug-Oct)



D. aurea Golden



Diuris praecox (Vul)



D. sulphurea

Tiger



White

Diuris alba



Purple
moths

Diuris venosa

Parson's Bands (Mar-May)



Eriochilus cucullatus complex



Climbing orchid (Sep-Nov)



*Erythrorchis
cassythoides*

Potato orchids (Sep-Oct)



Gastrodia procera



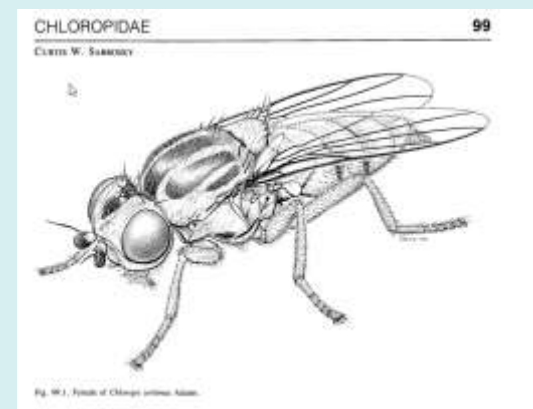
Gastrodia sesamoides

Brittle midge orchid – *Genoplesium baueri*

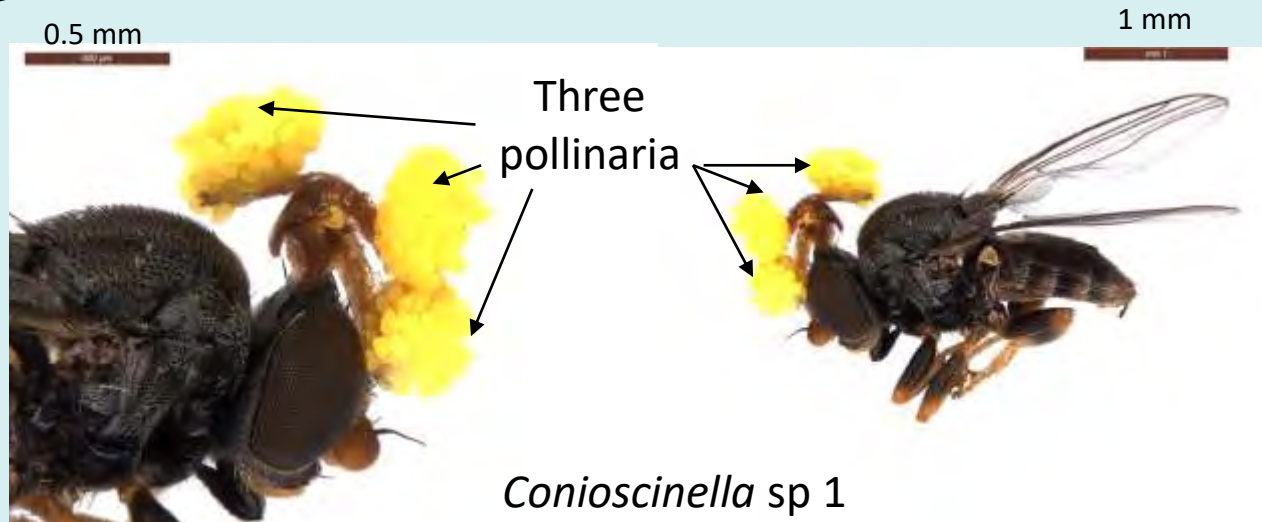
An **endangered** orchid species found only in Sydney Basin



Pollination of *Genoplesium baueri*



Chloropid fly carrying orchid pollinarium collected it from lowest orchid flower (far left)



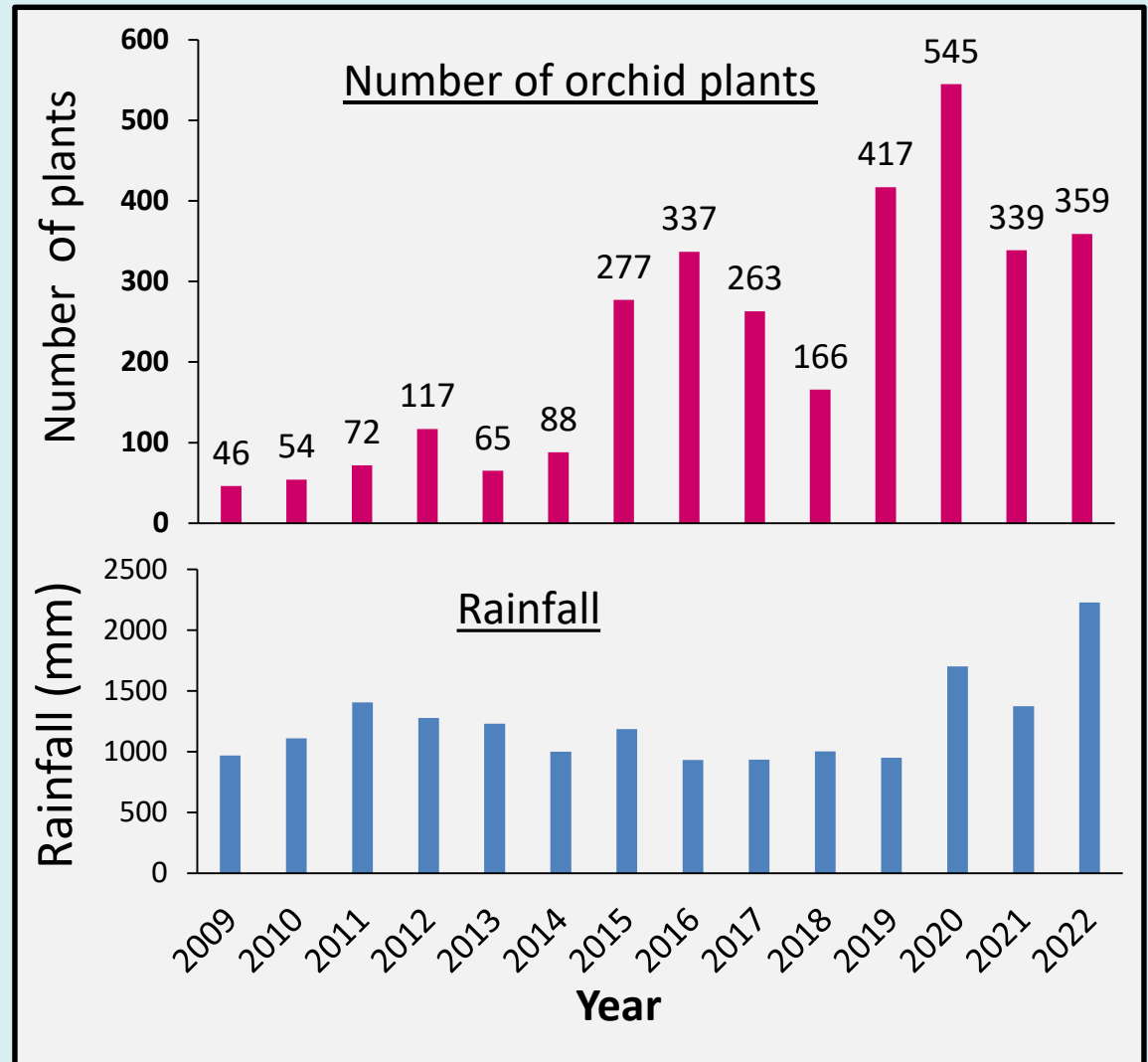
Fly images courtesy of Dan Bickel & John Martin AustMus

Demographics *G. baueri* plants 2009-2022

Number of sites

Year	No. of Sites
2009	3
2013	4
2016	5
2017	7
2019	8
2020	9
2021	12
2022	14

My data was used in the
Saving Our Species
conservation project.



Mean annual rainfall 1,230 mm

G. baueri sites on Hornsby Plateau

National Parks

Berowra Valley

Galston
Dural

Ku-ring-gai Chase NP

Mt Colah
Wahroonga
St Ives (7)
Terrey Hills

Garigal NP

Belrose
Davidson



Brown Beaks (Aug-Sep)



Lyperanthus suaveolens



Onion orchids



Microtis angusii
Photo James B.



Microtis oblonga
Photo Peter L.



Microtis rara
Scented



Microtis unifolia
Common

Bird's-mouth Orchid (Nov-Jan)



Orthoceras strictum

Leek Orchids (Apr-Oct)



P. brevilabre
Short-lipped

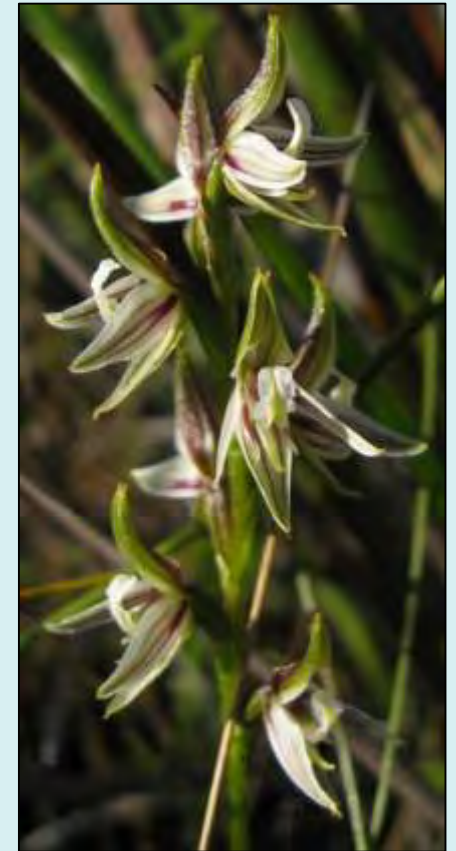


P. elatum
Tall



P. flavum
Yellow

Prasophyllum



P. striatum
Streaked

P. acuminata



Greenhood orchids

Pterostylis nutans



P. hispidula



P. curta



P. erecta



P. concinna



P. daintreeana



P. longifolia



P. parviflora



Greenhood orchids



P. acuminata

Sharp

Nodding



Pterostylis nutans

Blunt



P. curta



P. erecta / pedunculata



P. pedunculata

Maroonhoods



P. ped / acumin

Greenhood orchids

Pterostylis



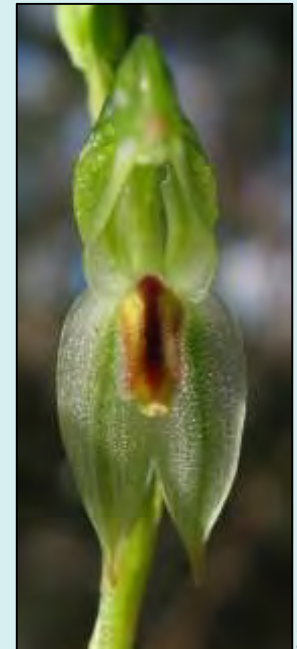
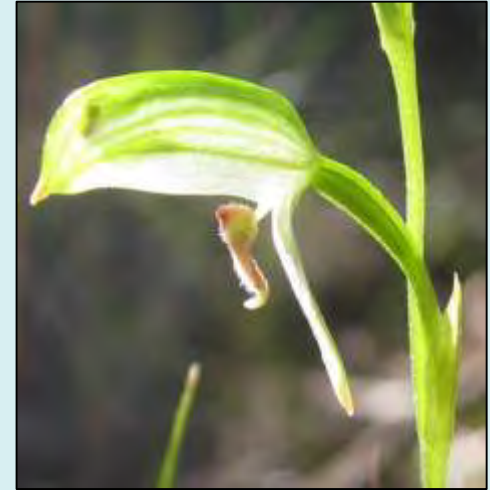
P. daintreeana

Daintree's Greenhood



Pterostylis longifolia

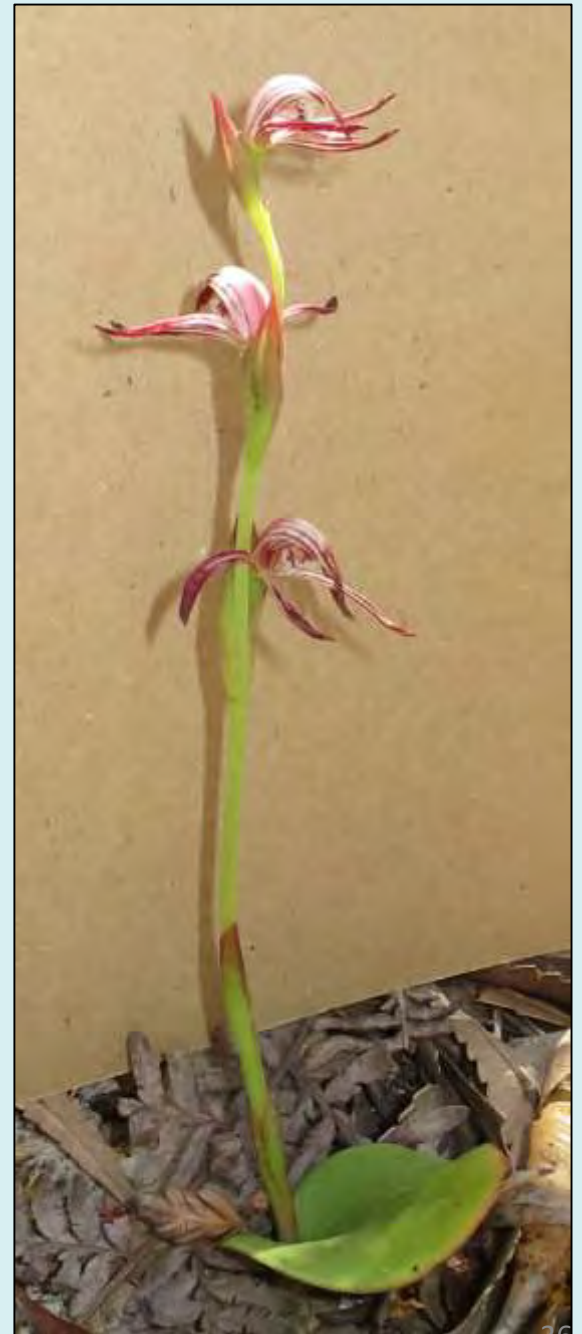
Tall



Red Beak Orchid (Aug-Sep)



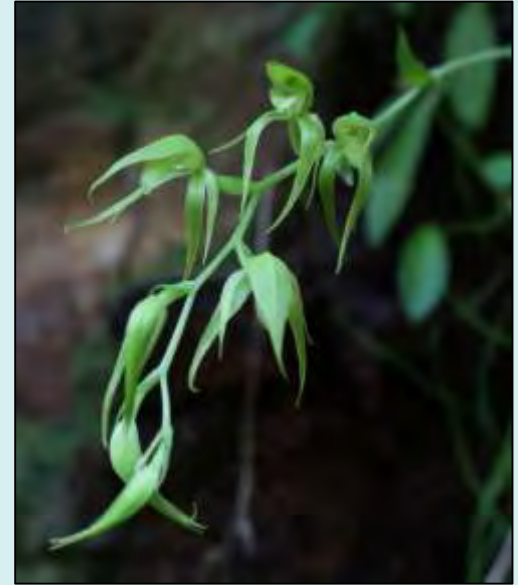
Pyrorchis nigricans



Green Rock Orchid (Oct-Dec)



Rimacola elliptica



Ladies Tresses (Nov-Apr)



Spiranthes australis

Sun orchids (Aug-Nov)



*Thelymitra
carnea*

Pink



*Thelymitra
pauciflora*

Slender



Spotted

Thelymitra ixioides

Orchid Pollinators of Victoria

4th edition



Rudie H Kuiter

Orchid Pollinators of Victoria 2

Nectar-rewarding Leek Orchids
and their Allies



Rudie H Kuiter

Thank you for listening.

Any comments or questions?

All images by Wendy Grimm except as acknowledged on individual slides.

APS Walks & Talks at
Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives
Mondays at 10am

Monthly meetings at Hornsby
northshore@austplants.com.au

