

# THE W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP



MEETINGS... 3rd WEDNESDAY each  
month at..

KINGS PARK BOARD ADMINISTRATION CENTRE  
Theatrette, KINGS PARK, WEST PERTH.

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OFFICE BEARERS 1985

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P O Box 323, Victoria Park WA 6100.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP.

OBJECTS OF THE GROUP:

- a. To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- b. To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their natural environment.
- c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
- d. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- e. To hold meetings for the exchanging of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f. To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g. To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday - 17 April at 7.00pm.

Venue: Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday - 17 April at 8.00pm.

Venue: Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

Guest Speaker;

Bevan Buirchell - "New Zealand and Australian Orchids"

FEES:

Members are reminded that fees for 1985 are now DUE. Please forward as soon as possible to our P O Box 323, Victoria Park W A 6100 OR bring along to our next meeting. \$10pa.

NEW ORCHID NAMES

In May 1984 the University of Western Australia Press published Orchids of South-West Australia by Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown. This excellent book includes a number of undescribed species, some of which were formally named in a paper in Nuytsia (vol.5, no. 1, pages 53 - 62), published last October. For users of Noel and Andrew's book these may be correlated as follows:

pages		
40 - 41		<u>Thelymitra variegata</u> var. <u>apiculata</u>
92 - 93		<u>Caladenia wanosa</u>
114 - 115		<u>Caladenia infundibularis</u>
124 - 125		<u>Caladenia uliginosa</u>
176 - 177		<u>Caladenia amplexans</u>
222 - 223		<u>Drakaea thynniphila</u>
300 - 301		<u>Pterostylis dilatata</u>

Alex George, Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Canberra.

18 March 1985

Editor  
W A N O S C Group

Dear Ken,

I would like to say thank you to the group for their very warm hospitality during my twelve weeks in Western Australia last year.

I consider my visit to have been most successful and much of this success was due to the assistance I received from W A N O S C Group members who provided accommodation, transported me to their favourite orchid haunts, assisted with maps, information and advice about where to find certain orchids and offered their friendship.

I met both city and country members, attended field trips and two meetings and having been a mere "mailing member" for several years I can now say that I now feel very much a real member of the group. You may be assured that I will do my best to provide any hospitality I can to any members who visit South Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Bates.

# OBSERVATIONS ON WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CORYBAS

Western Australia has at least four species of Corybas (helmet orchids) only one of which matches well with any named eastern Australian species. As Corybas are lovers of cool damp conditions the western species are restricted to the southern coast from near Bunbury around to Cape Arid.

The one species which matches an eastern form is Corybas despectans Jones & Nash a limestone loving species only named in the 1970's from South Australian plants. Very common in South Australia C. despectans is less common in Western Australia where it has only been found within five kilometres of the sea on limestone bluffs (i.e. Wireless Hill in Esperance, Conspicuous Cliffs near Walpole) and in calcareous sands (Busselton). As in South Australia many plants seem to be self pollinated the flowers having a degenerate appearance with tiny dorsal sepal and ragged labellum. For an illustration see Hoffmann & Brown's "Orchids of the South West" (as "Corybas despectans").

Flowering at the same time and in the same areas is an un-named species of helmet orchid (Fig.4) with a white labellum, red fringed, a broader dorsal sepal and general neater appearance. This species is common on coastal sand dunes at Esperance, near Albany and Warren Beach forming large colonies under dense thickets on the inland side of the dunes. It flowers in August and September.

The commonest helmet orchid in Western Australia (see Hoffman & Brown page 334) is a red flowered species which leans back on the leaf and has been known as Corybas dilatatus but it is certainly not the same as the plants from Eastern Australia which go by that name (see Nicholls, Orchids of Australia plate 278). The red flowered western species is common from coastal dunes to Eucalypt forests somewhat inland. It flowers earlier than the two previous species in June, July.

The fourth Western Australian species is Corybas unguiculatus (see photo in Orchids of the South-west). It differs however in several respects from the eastern form i.e. shape, size and position of labellum cilia and is somewhat intermediate between C. unguiculatus (Fig.2) and C. fordhamii (Fig.1) in other respects. Like C. fordhamii the western plants are spring flowering not autumn-winter flowering like C. unguiculatus. Also like C. fordhamii they grow in peaty bogs and not sandy forest floors like C. unguiculatus. See Fig.1 for illustration of C. fordhamii from South Australia. The western plants can be found from east of Esperance to near Walpole but they are rarely encountered.

Are there any other Western Australian helmet orchids? There have been reports of a large purple flowered species from heavy forest near Manjimup but these reports are reminiscent of reports of the marsupial Thylacine from the same area - the living proof is lacking!

Corybas are thought to mimic the fruiting bodies of fungi (i.e. to look like small purplish toadstools) in which fungus flies lay eggs and they are possibly pollinated by such flies as they have been observed entering flowers and even lay their eggs on them (D Binns pers.comm.)

Bob Bates



Figure 1 (S.Australia)



Figure 2 (S.Australia)

*Corybas* species undescribed

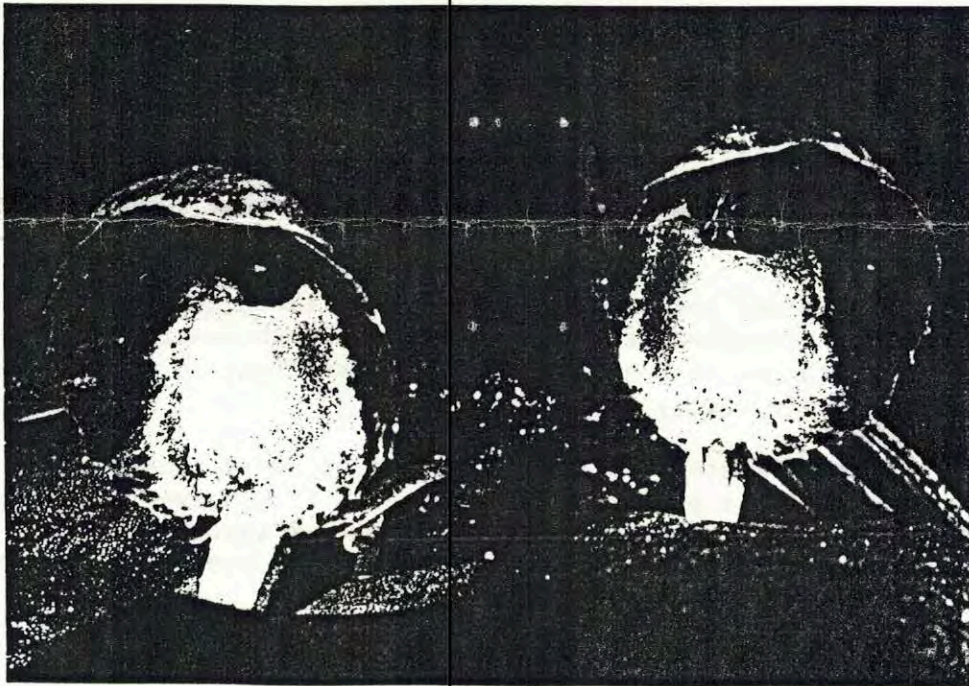


Figure 4 (W.Australia, S.Australia)

FOR YOUR DIARYField Trip for 1985

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Depart</u>
April 14	Warooka	Boan Carousel 9.00am
June 1-2-3	Wubin	To Be Advised
Aug 24-25	Dongara/Eneabba	"
Sept 7-8	Brookton/Pingelly	"
Sept 15	Gin-Gin/Bindoon	"
Sept 21-22	Goomalling	"
Sept 29	Armada/Serpentine	"
Oct 5-6-7	or To Be Advised Northcliffe to Windy Harbour	"
Oct 12-13	Beverly/York	"

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