Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group

July 2018 Bulletin

IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION:

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
18 July 2018

SKILFUL SIGHTING

Jack Eborall

OK! You have done your research into locations, habitat, flowering times and seasonal prospects. You have taken expert advice and here you are on site. Protected against ticks, boots cleaned and camera ready. Perhaps you are part of an eager field trip group. Into the bush, let's spot that elusive orchid. Here are some tips.

- If you are a beginner, keep near the leader or an experienced hunter.
- Don't neglect the area near the cars and the roadside. Many finds have been made there, some after fruitless wider searches.
- With due care, some isolated or remote roadsides can be scanned at 5 kph, especially with other observers in the car.
- Search likely habitats – woodlands of casuarina, jam, wandoo, granite rock aprons, winter wet heaths, scattered scrublands and, especially, areas recovering from burns. On the Swan Coastal Plain, search wetland margins, under spearwood (*Kunzea ericifolia*) thickets, under jarrah and casuarina trees in banksia woodlands and open sandy spaces between shrubs. Orchids are rarely found under red gums and never under Christmas trees.
- Get down for a low view (if you can). Tiny orchids often hide under the shelter of shrubs. Keeping your eyes down is usually necessary but, if there is an opportunity, stand still and survey a wider area, such as a little clearing.
- Orchids are lightly stemmed herbs and so will be swaying in a breeze and will stand out against surrounding heath and shrubs, which move less.
- Search up into the light; orchids will glow, especially *Caladenias*.
- Tune out unwanted colours. For example, searching for Cleopatra's needles (*Thelymitra apiculata*), fixate only on blue-violet.
- Searching degraded grassy or weedy areas is often a waste of time. Look for signs of healthier bushland, especially in the herbaceous layer below knee height. You are in a more promising area for example, if kangaroo or cat's paws are present.

Cleopatra's Needles
(*Thelymitra apiculata*)

- Orange, yellow and brown pea flowers may indicate Diuris close by. Star of Bethlehem looks like the rare and prized Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*). They may be companion plants.
- A search for the tiny, hard-to-see Lake Muir blood spider orchid (*Caladenia erythrochila*) was assisted when it was found to be growing near a large white spider orchid.
- A staff is very useful – better footing, protects against prickly and wet foliage, spider webs, etc.

A lifetime of experience is an advantage, but remember that many finds are lucky, happy accidents. Good hunting!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Recce to Moora 7-8 July 2018

Lateness of the rainy season in the southern half of Western Australia has had a considerable impact on orchid this year's orchid season. Consequently, when Kevin Uhe visited the area on reconnaissance ahead of an upcoming group trip, the orchid results were somewhat sparse with flowering considerably delayed.

That said, Kevin did manage to find green-veined shell orchids (*Pterostylis scabra*) en masse at Candy's Reserve, two different snails at Cataby, small bands greenhood (*Pterostylis orbiculata*) at Mogumber and an early donkey (*Diuris perialla*) at Yandin Hill.

On the upside, Kevin noted lots of spiders in very small bud with a couple nearly out so a prospect that they should start flowering very shortly

Images from left: *Small banded greenhood (Pterostylis* sp 'small bands'), *Pterostylis platypetala*, Robust Snail Orchid (*Pterostylis dilatata*), Green-veined Shell Orchids (*Pterostylis scabra*), *P scabra* massed

Images courtesy Kevin Uhe

Southern Rivers Group Field trip 17 June 2018 - Nullaki – Anna de Haan, SRG Convenor

After the two previous storms we were prepared for the worst by starting at a local hall with generous covered areas for protection from "Huey". Instead of rain we had beautiful sunshine, warmth and next to no wind. Just idyllic. The AGM could wait till lunchtime.

Autumn Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum parvifolium*)

Along the Bibbulmun Track and into the bush proper there was an abundant display of banded greenhood (*Pterostylis vittata*) and a few autumn leek orchids (*Prasophyllum parvifolium*). There were many leaf rosettes of snail orchids (*Pterostylis nana* complex) and rufous greenhoods (*Pterostylis plumosa* complex). Dozens of leaves of slipper orchids (*Cryptostylis ovata*), large gnats (*Cyrtostylis robusta*), red beaks (*Pyrorchis nigricans*) and cowslip orchids (*Caladenia flava* subsp. *flava*) were sighted. A limited number of the first rattle beaks (*Lyperanthus serratus*) and sun orchid (*Thelymitra* sp) leaves were seen whilst bunnies (*Eriochilus* sp) had gone to seed. As in 2016, fungi stole the show on this section of the Bibbulmun Track.

Over a leisurely lunch at the boat ramp we held the branch AGM as well as a general meeting with much discussion over future field trips right into January 2019. No orchids were found nearby along the inlet. At our third stop along the limestone cliff edges we tried our luck to locate a curled-tongue shell (*Pterostylis rogersii*). Great views, but not an orchid in sight. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful day outdoors, however, we were all left asking where was the rain?

Planned Group Trips Upcoming

18 or 19 August	Wambyn NR (west of York) (suggested trip) FTL: Volunteer needed
25 – 31 August	Perenjori – Charles Darwin NR – Ninghan Station (camping) 2 nights in each place, maximum of 8 vehicles Camper trainers, caravans, tents and swags FTL: Ian Greeve
19 – 24 September	Jerramungup (staying at caravan park) Extended trip – 6 days or just the long weekend 22-24 September FTL: TBD Target orchids: *Caladenias*

To Register for a Field Trip

1. Contact the field trip coordinator: Margaret Petridis on [redacted].
2. Names for the trips will be accepted four weeks prior to the trip and no later than 2 days before.

We will aim to limit numbers to around 20, so if more people register, we will probably split the group and stagger the start, as long as another field trip leader is available.

Please think about volunteering to lead a trip this year.

We are looking for trip leaders for Busselton and the Capes in mid-October and for the Augusta area in November.

Suggestions for a location and trip leader in mid-August would also be welcomed.

The proposed field trips list is flexible and may be altered due to rainfall, weather conditions, feedback from members and availability of leaders.

If any members have information to assist the FTL on any of the trips, please advise the FT coordinator. (as above)

Members are encouraged to look in new areas and send sighting data to the Registrar [redacted]

Perth Metropolitan Field Trips 2018 – Coordinator, Christine Lock

Plans are still tentative and incomplete and subject to additions or amendments. It is generally intended that these trips consist of small groups of members and that they take place during the week rather than at weekends. All relevant suggestions as to locations and offers to lead such trips will be very much appreciated.

Month/ Week beginning				**Field trip Leader**
July				
23-Jul	Perth	Kings Park	Burn	
August				
6-Aug	Beckenham	Kenwick wetlands		M Roepen
20-Aug	Ferndale	Adenia Road bridge		
27-Aug		Your local reserve, remnant bush, road verge	ORCHID CHALLENGE	Members
September				
3-Sep	Warwick	Warwick Open Space	Conservation Area	
10-Sep	Canning	Holmes Street Reserve	WALGA survey City of Gosnells	C Lock
October				
8-Oct	Winthrop	Piney Lakes		
15-Oct	Yanchep	Yanchep NP		
22-Oct				

CONSERVATION REPORT

Tim Hodgkins – Conservation Officer

Clearing notices

These are monitored daily and there is a significant amount of good quality remnant banksia and other woodland continuously under threat from clearing. A letter has been sent to the Minister to bring this issue to his attention; however no reply has been received yet.

Members are requested to provide immediate feedback if they observe clearing that appears to be illegal or unwarranted.

Projects

Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) complex – Moves to support the upgrade of the protection status will continue within the ADORP program with the target of listing in January 2019/20.
Manea Park remnant population: A meeting of FESA and City of Bunbury representatives has been arranged for Augusta 3rd to confirm the establishment of a Protection Buffer Zone around the remnant population. We have also been advised that plans to incorporate Manea into a larger Regional Park are now funded. This will improve the monitoring and protection of the orchid through the involvement of DBCA regional staff.

Reserve Status for Johnston Road, McLarty – To follow the positive response from the State Planning Commission, contact has been made with Andrew Webb, DBCA Bunbury and a site meeting will be held in August to consider flora survey work which must precede any consideration of change of status. Other matters such as Native tile and Mineral rights will also have to be investigated.

Appeal against clearing – Clearing Permit Application CPS 7827 from the Shire of West Arthur – our appeal was successful and the proponent (Shire) is now required to limit the area of disturbance: "The proposed clearing will be limited to the long and linear shoulder and adjoining table drain and that the area adjacent to and potentially containing the DRF will be well demarcated so that the extent and potential impact of clearing is avoided or minimised." The investigation by DWER also discovered that a significant length of road did not need to be included in the permit so this has been excluded.

Oldfield River NR & adjacent private property – This is one of only two known sites for the Underground orchid (*Rhizanthella gardneri*). The Club was co-sponsor of a 2011Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project which in its final report made significant recommendations to ensure the long term protection of the area and survival of the species. I am investigating the current status of the project and whether any of the recommendation has been carried out.

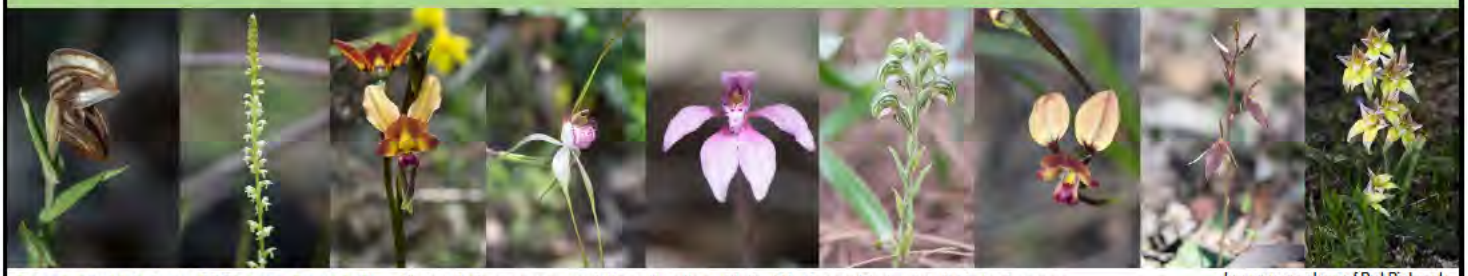
Frankland Reserve, Frankland River townsite – Jim Parry has confirmed that information that this 55 ha reserve, currently Crown Land, has 87 orchid species in the area and nearby Golf Course. Protection status does need to be investigated and if possible upgraded to Nature Reserve. WANOSCG and Green Skills data bases confirm the large number of sightings. The Shire of Cranbrook and DBCA Narrogin are the first contact for this action in the near future. One ongoing positive is the tourist potential for the area which is open woodland with good access.

Jandakot Airport – This issue is being addressed by Eddy Wajon who will report at the next meeting. There is a petition on the Change.org website that all members are encouraged to sign: "Infrastructure Minister Michael McCormack: Stop Jandakot Airport clearing more rare Orchids and Banksia woodland"

Site Watch

1. Caves Road upgrade
2. Qualen Road, Wandoo NP, grader damage, await report from DBCA

SOUTHERN RIVERS GROUP



Some orchids from SRG area from left: *Pterostylis concava, Microtis alboviridis, Diuris sp, Caladenia interjacens, Caladenia nana, Pterostylis vittata, Diuris amplissima, Cyrtostylis robusta, Caladenia flava*

Images courtesy of Pat Richards

Southern Rivers Branch Annual Report – Year Ended 2017

Anna de Haan – SRG Branch Convenor

January rains arrived in the form of one big storm which was very welcome after the dry finish to 2016, however, the joy of early rains was soon forgotten as each month thereafter we fell further and further behind the annual average. Local members learnt from first-hand experience the importance of enough rain falling at the right time of the year. Thus the progressive season became more challenging with members driving many extra kilometres to find the sparse populations of orchids.

The first three trips of the year covered familiar sites, however, by August a local burn in the Marbelup Nature Reserve had the club returning on many visits due to the sheer number and species of orchids found. Coastal locations in the east were also a delight to visit, especially for our visiting English orchid enthusiasts. Denmark had a number of burns in wet swampy locations. These were a treat in the latter part of the year.

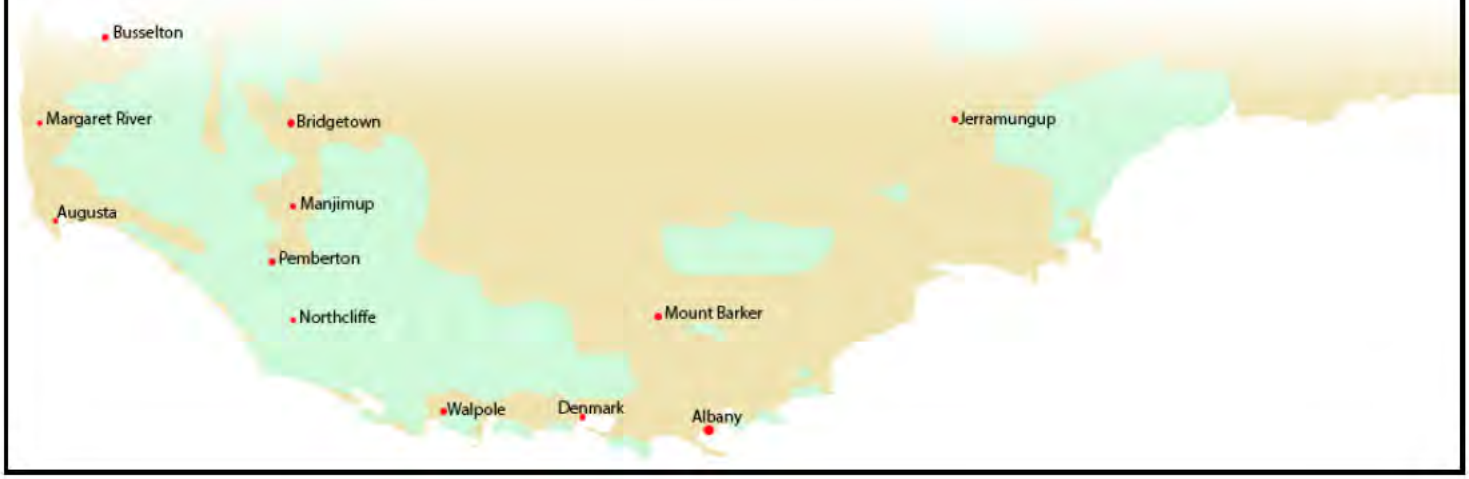
Many more private trips were made this year with members going further afield to find orchids. Due to the challenging orchid season other interests were added to their trips. Birdwatching, wildflower identification and simply enjoying the countryside soon filled the days.

The orchid display was again a very popular section of the Albany Wildflower Show. I wish to thank the club members and in particular Keith Smith for the time and effort spent collecting, presenting and labelling the orchids.

Eight field trips were held throughout the year involving 31 members.

One participated in 8 trips
Two participated in 6 trips
Two participated in 5 trips
Four participated in 4 trips
One participated in 3 trips
Five participated in 2 trips; and
Fourteen participated in one field trip.

Unusually dry early season variations, enabled members to appreciate the impact of such conditions on orchid biology and ecology later in the season. I wish to thank all club members for their continued support throughout the year.



STUDY GROUPS

ADOPT AN ORCHID PROJECT (ADORP)

Kevin Uhe – ADORP Coordinator

During the 2017/18 financial year a total of 2,446 volunteer hours were recorded which has surpassed the previous highest annual total by over 500 hours. Thanks to all members who have contributed their time during this period. Total hours recorded since project inception totals 8,453 hours which is a tremendous effort.

Crystal Brook Star Orchid
(*Thelymitra magnifica*)

DBCA offers small rewards for volunteers and a total of 15 ADORP members have qualified for one of the three tier awards which include parks passes, discount vouchers and badges. These are normally sent out in August each year.

All the ADORP teams are now in place for the forthcoming season and it will be interesting to see how some of the taxa under review have fared due to controlled burns, late rainfall and other environmental factors.

Work is progressing on the Crystal Brook star orchid (*Thelymitra magnifica*) nomination for Threatened status and it is hoped to put up at least another two taxa for the following round. Some changes to priority status of some taxa could also be made after this season's monitoring.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Jon Warren – Vice President/Membership Coordinator

As at the beginning of July we had 127 memberships covering some 192 people within the group, although approximately 40 had still not remitted their subscription fees. We realise that this may just be an oversight on their part, however, members whose fees have not been paid by the 31 July will not be entitled to receive the Bulletin, nor participate in any of the group's activities.

For the information of members payment may be made either:

by cheque for $30 handed to the treasurer, Jay Steer,
or posted to WANOSCG, PO Box 323, Victoria Park WA 6979

or:

by electronic transfer of $30 to the club's bank account
BSB 306044
Bank name: Bankwest
Account number: 5492468

Note: If you choose to send money electronically, please identify what the payment is for (ie annual fees) and send a copy of your electronic receipt to wanoscg@gmail.com.

We warmly welcome Roslyn Capell, Michael Hurdus and Lisa Wilson, new members who joined us recently. Roslyn hails from Ballina in NSW and Michael and Lisa from Albany in WA.

Orchid Taxonomy

Kevin Uhe

In the February 2018 edition of the *Australian Orchid Review* David Jones and Mark Clements published a paper on new and reinstated species of *Corunastylis* and concluded that *Corunastylis tepperi* had a confused taxonomic history and should be treated as a nomen confusum. No accurate description or specimens sent in by Otto Tepper exist in official records which has resulted in a confused taxonomy.

In early days a number of pygmy orchids were described under the genus *Prasophyllum* and in 1898 Felix Reader formerly described *Prasophyllum fusco-viride*. This taxon has now been reinstated, transferred into *Corunastylis* and formerly named *Corunastylis fuscoviridis*. This paper has been accepted by the WA Herbarium and is now reflected in Florabase to replace *Corunastylis tepperi*.

Corunastylis fuscoviridis is found in South Australia and western Victoria as well as being the only member of this genus to flower in Western Australia.

Pygmy Orchid
(Corunastylis fuscoviridis)

The Darling Range duck orchid (*Paracaleana* sp 'Darling Range') has been renamed *Paracaleana* sp 'Laterite' and has been upgraded to Priority 2. It is expected that this will be formerly named once the due taxonomic studies are complete.

Corymbosa Complex of Diuris Part 3 – August Flowering Species

John Ewing

NB: Photographs not intended for ID purposes

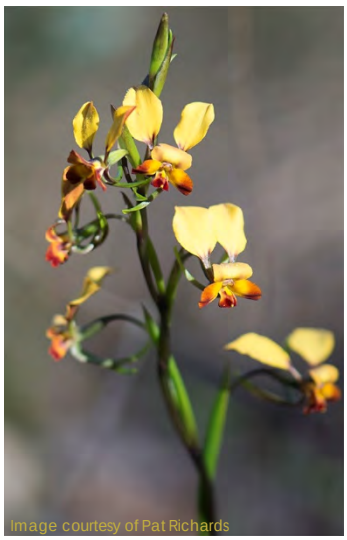
This is the third article in this series and it assumes that you have read and digested the first two articles published in the May and June Bulletins. While 10 of the previous 11 species are still flowering (only *Diuris perialla* is now unlikely to be found) we now have 10 more starting to flower in August so we now have 20 species to distinguish between. If you are only just starting this month GOOD LUCK!!!

Early Donkey Orchid
(Diuris perialla)

D brevis (sp Perth swamps) – this is unmistakeable as it is now known from only one location which is the type location. It is a priority species. The common name of 'Short-nosed Donkey Orchid' refers to the very small labellum mid-lobe which is 4 to 5 mm long. This distinguishes it from all other species that are found in the Perth metro area.

D conspicillata – this species is found only in the Esperance area. Its common name of 'Spectacled Donkey Orchid' alludes to the brown colouring on the lateral labellum lobes which gives the appearance of 'spectacles'. It does not have the bright purple mid-lobe and is thus clearly separated from *D pulchella*. Overall *D conspicillata* is a paleish yellow brown and is thus distinguished from *D littoralis* by colour as the latter is generally more brightly coloured. The dorsal sepal is slightly larger than *D littoralis* (9 to 13 mm x 10 to 12 mm as against 8 to 13 mm x 8 to 11 mm) and so are the lateral sepals (17 to 23 mm as against 8 to 13 mm. The final and perhaps key aspect to add is that *D conspicillata* grows on granite outcrops. One location where the type of this species is found is at Dempster Head, just at the south end of the Esperance main town.

D pallescens (sp 'mid-north') – the location for *D pallescens*, being Moora to Mingenew, covers a number of other species that are also still flowering in August (*D refracta*, *D recurva*, *D brumalis*,



Winter Donkey Orchid
(*Diuris brumalis*)

D corymbosa and *D tinkerii*). The scape size of 200 to 350 mm = average 275 mm means that it is smaller than both *D tinkerii* and *D brumalis* (average 350+ mm with plants regularly over 400 mm). In addition both these two species are much brighter yellow overall and have larger sized flowers (20 to 30 mm across) compared to *D pallescens* which is a pale yellow and only 10 to 15 mm across. Flower size is also a way of distinguishing *D pallescens* from *D refracta* which at 18 to 25 mm across is somewhat larger. Likewise leaf size is smaller for *D pallescens* (100 to 150 mm as compared to 150 to 200 mm). Here is a clear example of the need to measure a number of plants to compare average sizes of leaves. When it comes to *D recurva* leaf size is also a possible starting point. *D recurva* is 100 to 200 mm and so is slightly larger but is also wider (10 to 15 mm as compared to *D pallescens* which is 5 to 10 mm). In addition while flower size is not much different and both have reflexed lateral sepals, *D recurva*'s is much more recurved (see description from last month) than those of *D pallescens*. If you find a flower on or around granites rocks within the Moora to Mingenew area then *D pallescens* is quite a possibility.

D suffusa (sp 'Wyalkatchem') – as the manuscript name implies this species is found further inland in the north-eastern wheatbelt. Its distribution does not overlap with *D pallescens* at all. Likewise, its distribution does not overlap with the species beginning in July, so detailed comparisons against them is not needed. As with some previously covered, *D suffusa* is another pale flowered species but its distribution does overlap with *D hazeliae*. However, the latter is generally a much brighter golden yellow rather than *D suffusa*'s pale colour. *D suffusa* also has a taller scape (200 to 350 mm = average 275 mm as compared to 100 to 300 mm = average 200 mm); *D suffusa*'s leaf size is larger (150 to 200 mm x 7 to 10 mm as against 50 to 100 mm x 5 to 10 mm). While *D suffusa* is generally located in woodland and shrubland, *D hazeliae* is most often found on or around granite outcrops.

D hazeliae (sp 'eastern wheatbelt') – is widespread in the eastern wheat-belt from Paynes Find to Salmon Gums. Despite its range it is the only species found in the far eastern part of the wheatbelt with only *D suffusa* (see above for comparisons) and perhaps *D refracta* overlapping marginally. Plant and leaf sizes are generally smaller than *D refracta* (scape average 200 mm vs 275 mm, leaf size and width 50 to 100mm x 5 to 10 mm as against *D refracta*'s 150 to 200 mm x 7 to 10 mm). Both these species favour granite outcrops and so this is no real value as a distinguishing feature.

(*Diuris brumalis*)

D carecta (sp 'Murchison River') – this is second species in coastal or near coastal locations north of Geraldton. Therefore it needs only to be distinguished from ORARIA, especially as in late August both grow together in some sites. *D carecta* is, however, only just beginning in late August whereas *D oraria* is finishing. Thus the freshness of the flowers is a clue. *D carecta* has taller scapes (200 to 450 mm = average 300+ mm) whereas *D oraria* is only 150 to 300 mm = average 225 mm. Likewise it has larger leaves (150 to 250 mm x 8 to 15 mm compared to 100 to 150mm x 5 to 10 mm for *D oraria*). Lateral sepals are another clue with *D carecta* having recurved sepals while ORARIA has hanging, fairly straight and quite wide lateral sepals (2.5 to 3 mm as against *D carecta*'s 2 to 2.5 mm). If you find a donkey orchid in this area in September, especially mid-September, it will be *D carecta*.

D magnifica – a truly magnificent flower. It is found ranging from slightly north to some distance south of Perth on the coastal plain. The scape is very tall being 300 to 600 mm but often towards the top of the range. While *D brumalis* is still flowering and can be tall (up to 500 mm) it is on average quite a bit shorter. The key distinction between these two is the much stronger purple colour on the labellum mid-lobe. Another element is leaf width with *D magnifica* being 10 to 20 mm as against 8 to 10 mm for

D brumalis. Flower size also contrasts with *D magnifica* being 30 to 50 mm across and *D brumalis* being quite a lot smaller at 20 to 25 mm. The more difficult comparison is with *D corymbosa* (after which this complex is named – see more information below). Height is the starting point with *D corymbosa* being smaller at 200 to 400 mm but, rather like *D magnifica*, there are often plants towards the top of the height range. Also leaves are narrower being 5 to 10 mm vs 10 to 20 mm and flower size also smaller (25 to 35 mm across compared to 30 to 50 mm for *D magnifica*. This species is common in Perth on the sandplain and can be found at the Joondalup Campus of Edith Cowan University, behind the south side of the Guildford Cemetery on Kalamunda Road and on the near-by roadside, at Wireless Hill, Kings Park and many other places.

D cruenta (sp 'Kemerton') - this is one of three species in the Bunbury area (*D cruenta*, *D porphyrochila* and *D tinctoria*) although only two begin flowering in August. At this time, *D cruenta* is most easily distinguished on the basis of scape height. In mid to late August only *D cruenta* and *D porphyrochila* (sp 'Yalgorup') are flowering. *D cruenta* is 250 to 400 mm (average 325 mm) high but *D porphyrochila* is 200 to 600 mm (average 400 mm but with quite a number of very tall plants). Leaf size is very similar as is flower size. There is some difference in the size of the dorsal sepal with *D cruenta* being 6 to 10 mm by 9 to 14 mm wide while *D porphyrochila*'s dorsal sepal is slightly larger at 8 to 12 mm x 12 to 16 mm wide. All other measurable features such as the labellum mid-lobe, side lobes and lateral sepals have almost no significant differences. Thus we are reduced to the final distinction which is the colour of the flowers but this is subject to considerable variation. *D cruenta* has light coloured petals but reddish colour in the labellum. *D porphyrochila* has brighter petals but more purple in the labellum mid-lobe and brown rather than the red-brown lateral labellum lobes of *D cruenta*. Again this difference is a matter of using a wide range of samples until one gains a 'feel' for the difference.

Diuris porphyrochila

D porphyrochila (sp 'Yalgorup') – the key features are in the comparisons with *D cruenta*. For the comparisons with *D tinctoria* (sp sandplain) and JONESII (sp Dunsborough) you will need to wait for next month, as those species do not begin flowering until October.

D corymbosa – other species found in the CORYMBOSA range in August are *D brevis*, *D porrifolia*, *D brachyscapa*, *D recurva*, *D refracta*, *D cruenta*, *D porphyrochila*, *D brumalis* and *D magnifica*. Elimination starts with *D brevis* based on specific location and more importantly the very small labellum mid-lobe.

To the east of Perth, the next two are *D porrifolia* and *D brachyscapa*. Both these species are pale in colour rather than a bright yellow and both have slightly smaller scapes (150 to 350 mm and 150 to 300 mm as against *D corymbosa*'s 200 to 400 mm). Both also have slightly smaller flowers (15 to 25 mm and 20 to 30 mm as against 25 to 35 mm). By considering all three features and making measurements the distinction should be clear. If not, take more measurements.

To the north of Perth, *D recurva* should be eliminated on the basis of both flower size (it is only 10 to 15 mm wide) and on the basis of the reflexing of the lateral sepals since *D corymbosa*'s are generally hanging and barely reflexed at all (although they are generally crossed). In a similar way *D refracta* is eliminated on the lateral sepals which are also recurved rather than essentially hanging down. Flowers are also smaller being 18 to 25 mm across rather than the 25 to 35 mm of *D corymbosa*.

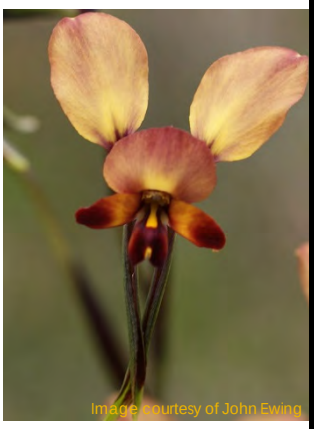
Diuris porphyrochila

To the south of Perth two species need to be considered. Firstly *D porphyrochila* as in the northern part of its range it overlaps the southern part of *D corymbosa*'s range. The first hint is scape height which rises up to 600 mm for *D porphyrochila* but only 400 mm for *D corymbosa*. The fact that both start at 200 mm means this is only

useful if you find a population with a number of very tall flowers. Leaf differences are small with *D corymbosa* being 120 to 250 mm (av = 185 mm) compared to *D porphyrochila*'s 100 to 200 (av = 150 mm) but flower size might help with *D corymbosa* being slightly larger (25 to 35 mm across vs 15 to 30 mm. Again this data needs a larger sample (say 10) and selection of 'average' plants in the population and then calculating the average to draw a tentative conclusion. It is best to start with populations outside the overlap areas and having developed some 'feel' for each THEN come to identifying populations in the overlap locations. Petals may also be a guide. While both are elongated in shape and fairly erect on fresh flowers *D corymbosa* has petals with mostly a plain yellow colour while many on *D porphyrochila* have purple/brown streaks on them. Lateral sepals are sometimes a distinguishing feature with *D corymbosa*'s being relatively narrower at 1.5 to 2 mm while *D porphyrochila*'s being 2 to 3 mm. Again population averages need to be used.

D cruenta's northern limit of its range also overlaps *D corymbosa*'s southern limit. Here, the basis of distinction is a little clearer. Scape height is not useful as both grow to 400 mm but now leaf length is a good guide. *D corymbosa* has longer leaves (120 to 250 mm) whereas *D cruenta* is 100 to 150 mm. Flower size is similar but colour has differences. The red/red brown of *D cruenta* is not evident in *D corymbosa* at all.

Within or near the Perth metro area *D magnifica* is separated from *D corymbosa* firstly on the basis of scape height as it is an average of 450 mm tall with *D corymbosa* being only 200 to 400 mm = average of 300 mm. Leaves of *D magnifica* are also wider being 10 to 20 mm with *D corymbosa* being only 5 to 10 mm. Finally flower size for *D corymbosa* is smaller at 25 to 35 mm across compared to *D magnifica* which is 30 to 50 mm across. We now return to the early flowering *D brumalis* which can still be found in August. One clue to sorting these two is that in August many *D brumalis* will be finishing while many *D corymbosa* will have flowers with buds. Flower size is also different with *D brumalis* being 15 to 25 mm across while *D corymbosa* is 25 to 35 mm across. Generally the tri-lobed labellum of *D corymbosa* is more deeply coloured than *D brumalis* which has lighter yellow and light brown markings rather than the darker browns of *D corymbosa*.



Common Donkey Orchid
(*Diuris corymbosa)*

The table below has selected information solely for the purposes of comparisons so that one species can be distinguished from another. Use this table in conjunction with the June article's table Use the text for locations which is sometimes a key distinguishing feature.

SPECIES starting to flower in AUGUST	Height (mm)	Leaf length (mm)	Leaf Width (mm)	Flower colour	Flower width (mm)	Mid lobe length (mm)	Mid lobe tip colour	Habitat/ location
D brevis						V short 4-5		swamp
D conspicillata				Pale yel-brn			Not brt ppl	Esperance granite
D pallescens	200-350		5-10	Pale yel	10-15			Inland granite
D suffusa	200-350	150-200	7-10	Pale yel				woodland
D hazeliae	100-300	50-100	5-10	Brt yel				granite
D carecta	200-450	150-250	8-15					N of Geraldton
D magnifica	300-600	120-250	10-20	Brt yel	30-50		ppl	Perth
D cruenta	250-400	100-150	7-9	Light petals			Mid-lobe reddish	Near Bunbury
D porphyrochila	200-600			Bright petals			Mid-lobe ppl & brn	Perth to Bunbury
D corymbosa	200-400	120-250	5-10	Brt yel	25-35		Brn/yel	

Abbreviations: yel = yellow; brn = brown; ppl = purple; brt = bright

Next month will cover the remaining five species which begin flowering in either September or October.

General Meeting Rosters

As usual, each general meeting concludes with a raffle prize draw followed by an informal supper, the prize and light supper refreshments being provided by volunteers. Note that Trish Newmann is coordinator of the suppers but we do need some members to step up and provide the prizes and refreshments. Speakers/topics and prizes have been fixed up for the remainder of the orchid year but volunteers to provide supper are still being sought for September, October and November meetings. It's not onerous, so please consider putting your name down for one or other of these when the request sheet is circulated at the meetings.

	Speaker	Topic	Raffle Prize	Supper
18 Jul	Glenn Willan (St John Ambulance) – Tobias Hyashi –	Safety in the field Trapped in the hood: the pollination of Pterostylis	Sarah Atkinson	Donna Wajon
15 Aug	Jack Eborall	My interest and experience with native orchids	Bob Steer	David Lawson
19 Sep	Member group discussion	Draft new Constitution and Rules of Association	Jay Steer	
17 Oct	Ryan Phillips	Recent discoveries in the pollination biology of Caladenia from Western Australia and Victoria	Janeanne & David Cumming	(Octogenarian night)
21 Nov	None	Photo competition (*Caladenia flava*)	Leif Jamvold	

Thank you for reading. Happy orchid hunting!

BULLETIN ARTICLES
Please email any Bulletin contributions to the Editor at wanoscg.newsletter@gmail.com. Items for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 8 August 2018.

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