

# Buttercup Doubletail Orchid



Have you  
seen this  
plant?



photo: Colin Tottenham

This is the Buttercup Doubletail orchid (*Diuris aequalis*). It is known from only seven sites near the Great Dividing Range between Kanangra-Boyd National Park and Mulloon Creek, west of Braidwood. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is keen to find other sites where this orchid occurs. If you think you have seen this plant, please contact the NPWS at the address given on the other side of this leaflet.

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## About the Buttercup Doubletail

The Buttercup Doubletail is easy to distinguish from other Doubletail and Donkey Orchids because its flowers do not have any markings on them - they are entirely yellow or almost orange. However, the Buttercup Doubletail is in flower for a short time only (between late October and mid-November on the Southern Tablelands and between late November and early December in Kanangra-Boyd National Park). Plants have two narrow leaves to about 20 cm long. After flowering and fruiting the plant dies back to its underground tuber.

## Where to look

The Buttercup Doubletail occurs in woodland with a grassy understorey near the Great Dividing Range. Populations have been recorded near Manar (west of Braidwood), Tarago, Goulburn and Kanangra-Boyd National Park. It tends to grow where gum barked eucalypts such as Brittle Gum, Candlebark, Scribbly Gum or Mountain Gum are dominant, and where grazing is light.

## Why is it important?

The Buttercup Doubletail is listed as vulnerable under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Although the Buttercup Doubletail is known from seven sites including a National Park, less than 200 plants have been found. Since most of the land within its range is privately owned and poorly known botanically, it is possible that the orchid is much more common than presently thought. If it is not more common, the orchid might easily become extinct.

## Remember

If you find this plant on your property, it is because your land is managed in a way that is conducive to the orchid's survival. It is unlikely that you would be required to change how you are managing your land because of the orchid and you may be able to contribute to its continued survival and our understanding of its habitat requirements.

## If you think you've found one

If you find a flower that you think may be a Buttercup Doubletail, compare it carefully with the photograph on this leaflet. The most important character is the lack of spots or blotches on the flowers, which are golden yellow or orange.

If so, or if you would like more information, please contact:

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