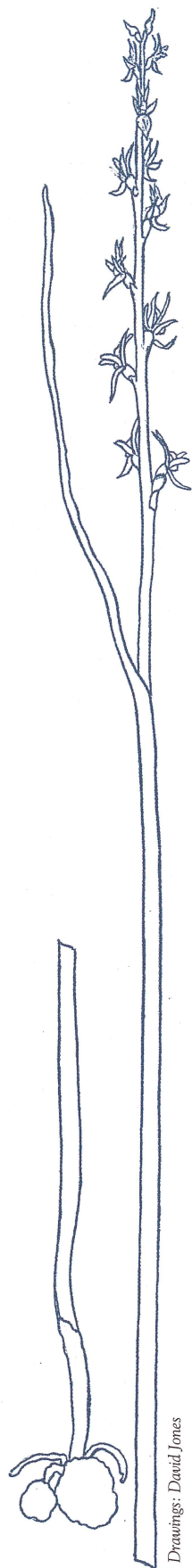


Tarengo Leek Orchid

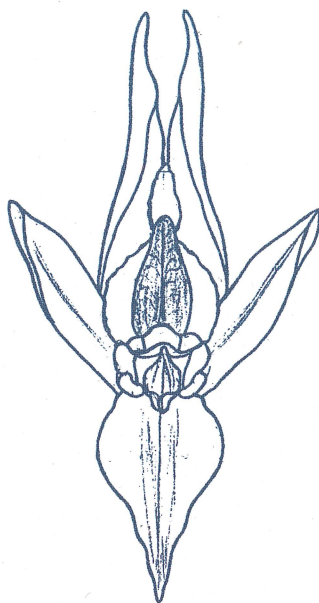
Have
you
seen this
plant?



This is the endangered Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*). It is known from only three small areas in the Boorowa and Canberra regions. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is keen to find other sites where this orchid occurs. If you think you may have seen this plant, please contact the NPWS at the address given on the other side of this leaflet.



Drawings: David Jones



About the Tarengo Leek Orchid

This small ground orchid is only noticeable in the springtime (October – December) when it is in flower. At this time, a flowering stalk reaching up to 30cm high breaks through its single, cylindrical leaf. Along the flowering stalk are five to twenty small, cream or pinkish-green, sweetly scented flowers. After flowering and fruiting the plant dies back to its underground tuber.

Where to look

The only known areas where the Tarengo Leek Orchid has been found are native grasslands or grassy woodlands on relatively fertile soils. The main native grasses are Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Snow Grass (*Poa* species), Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) and Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* species). Native grasslands like this usually only persist in areas that are rarely, or only occasionally grazed by stock. The sites may be seasonally moist or boggy.

Why is it important?

The Tarengo Leek Orchid occurs in areas that are good for farming and grazing. It was probably much more common before European settlement, but is now so rare that it could easily go extinct if we don't take care of it.

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 significantly 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 Tarengo Leek Orchid, compare it carefully with the photograph and drawing on this leaflet. Does it have a single, onion-like leaf with a flower spike breaking through part way up, and creamy or pinkish-green scented flowers.

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

Stephen Clark, Threatened Species Unit, NPWS Southern Directorate
PO Box 2115 Queanbeyan NSW 2620. Ph: (02) 6298 9700 email: stephen.clark@npws.nsw.gov.au