

Danhatchia australis

COMMON NAME

Yonia, Danhatchia

SYNONYMS

Yonia australis Hatch

FAMILY

Orchidaceae

AUTHORITY

Danhatchia australis (Hatch) Garay et Christenson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Orchids

NVS CODE

DANAUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp, TO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, TO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand (see de Lange & Molloy 1998): North Island (recorded from Waipoua south to Mt Pirongia but mainly found north of Waiuku; Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island), Mokohinau Islands), South Island (Kaihoka Lakes area, North-west Nelson). Also Australia (New South Wales).

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland, in forest dominated by taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) and nīkau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*). This saprophytic orchid grows in deep leaf litter intermixed with a fungus which is mostly associated with nikau. Popular mythology has it that it is exclusively associated with taraire but this is incorrect (see de Lange & Molloy 1998). It has also been collected once growing from amongst dense shrubs of Spanish heather (*Erica lusitanica*). Easily overlooked as it does not necessarily flower every year, and after heavy flowering plants may rest for several years before flowering again.



Under taraire, Great Barrier Island. Jan 1983.
Photographer: Ewen Cameron, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Danhatchia australis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Saprophytic, subterranean, leafless, rhizomatous, perennial herb lacking chlorophyll. **Rhizomes** buried deep within partially decomposed leaves and leaf mould; 3–5 mm diameter, vermiform, brittle, more or less opaque, pinkish grey coloured, much-branched and interwoven, irregularly bearing tufts of long colourless hairs, and vestigial scale-leaves. **Stems** erect up to 200 mm tall, unbranched, pale rose-pink, pinkish-grey, pale brown to mushroom grey, glabrescent to glandular-pubescent. **Scale-leaves** 1–7–(15), 10–15 mm long, chartaceous, much paler than stem, many-nerved, basal scale-leaves semi-tubular, those higher up open-sheathed. **Floral bracts** similar to scale-leaves. **Pedicels** very short. **Flowers** 1–5–(10), suberect. **Perianth** 6 mm long, brownish or pinkish-grey with white apices, externally more or less glandular-pubescent. **Dorsal sepal** more or less oblong, slightly concave; lateral sepals similar, more or less spreading. **Petals** similar, included within sepals. **Labellum** sessile, orbicular to broadly oblong, column-embracing; base broad, slightly pouched bearing on each side several fleshy hairs and/or elongated calli; median line thickened; sides becoming thick, fleshy and stiff towards apex, externally tuberculate; margins inturned, thin and membranous; mid-lobe minute, orbicular, deeply concave. **Column** almost as tall as labellum, basally subcylindric becoming winged, wings very narrow; filament broad, rigid; connective slightly produced; anther tall, erect, stationary, each cell with two sets of transversely oblique, closely packed, vermiform, sectile, pollinia; stigma appearing bilobed, often funneliform, with side lobes that flare widely in old flowers; rostellum long, narrow-triangular, wedged between the long pollinia.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to native orchids of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

None. It could be confused with *Gastrodia* which can grow in similar habitats but orchids from that genus have much taller, glabrous, dark brown or black-brown, spotted stems bearing fewer scale-leaves, and larger flowers.

FLOWERING

December–February

FLOWER COLOURS

Grey, White

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

A saprophytic orchid which is unknown from cultivation. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Not threatened in New Zealand—but not very common either, and at risk from orchid collectors.

ETYMOLOGY

australis: Southern

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Plants discovered in Australia in 2009 and initially assigned to *Danhatchia australis* were then described as a new species *D. novaehollandiae* D.L.Jones et M.A.Clem. (Jones & Clements 2018). However, subsequent critical assessment of this species by Orchid experts at the New South Wales Herbarium (NSW, Sydney) can see no valid reason to uphold *D. novae-hollandiae* (M.A.M. Renner pers. comm.). It is their view, and this is accepted here, that *Danhatchia novaehollandiae* is the same as *D. australis*.

See:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&search=yes&name=search=Danhatchia+novaehollandiae&dist=>

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Danhatchia~australis>

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 2 March 2007. Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970), supplemented with observations obtained from fresh plants and herbarium specimens.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange PJ, Molloy BPJ. 1998. Two new localities for *Danhatchia australis* (Orchidaceae). *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 51(1): 6–9.
- Jones DL, Clements MA. 2018. *Danhatchia novaehollandiae* (Orchidaceae: Goodyerinae), a new species from south-eastern Australia. *Australian Orchid Review* 83(4): 56–57.
- Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/danhatchia-australis/>