

Caladenia melanema

Name and Authority

Caladenia melanema Hopper & A.P.Br.

Synonyms (previous names)

Calonema melanemum; Calonemorichis melanema; Jonesiopsis melanema

Common Name

Ballerina Orchid

Complex Name

Caladenia filamentosa (Wispy Spider Orchids)

Originally Described by

Stephen Hopper & Andrew Brown in Nuytsia 14:248-249, Figs. 59I-O (2001)

Distribution and Habitat

Lake Grace to south of Pingrup, growing in sandy soils in Mallee woodlands and shrublands surrounding salt lakes.

Flowering Months

· · · · · Aug Sep · · ·

Description

A rare orchid 80–100 mm high with a hairy leaf 40–120 mm long by 2–5 mm wide and up to two creamy-white to pale yellow flowers 40–60 mm across. The [petals](#) and [sepals](#) are covered with distinctive dark brown to black [hemispherical](#) hairs.

Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished from the Chameleon Spider Orchid (*Caladenia dimidia*) with which it sometimes hybridises by its shorter [petals](#) and [sepals](#) with [hemispherical](#) rather than cylindrical [glandular](#) hairs.

WA Conservation Code (Threatened Status)

Threatened (Critically Endangered)

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[Caladenia melanema distribution](#)



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