

Rhizanthella gardneri

Name and Authority

Rhizanthella gardneri R.S.Rogers

Common Name

Underground Orchid

Originally Described by

Richard Rogers in J.Roy.Soc.Western Australia 15:1 (1930)

Distribution and Habitat

Babakin to Corrigin, growing in dense thickets of *Melaleuca scalena*. Plants mostly occur within 100 mm of the base of the *Melaleuca* but on rare occasions can occur further away. Soil is either sandy-clay or sandy-loam.

Flowering Months

· · · · May Jun · · · · ·

Description

A rare [species](#) with up to 100 small, inward facing, pinkish-red to deep red and cream flowers 4–5 mm across, surrounded by six to 12 large cream to pinkish-cream floral bracts which form a tulip-like head. On rare occasions flowering heads may protrude a few mm above the soil but are usually hidden by a covering of leaf and bark litter.

Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished from the closely related South Coast Underground Orchid (*Rhizanthella johnstonii*) by its earlier flowering period, usually darker coloured floral bracts, more numerous flowers and more northerly distribution.

WA Conservation Code (Threatened Status)

Threatened (Critically Endangered)

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Rhizanthella gardneri



[Rhizanthella gardneri distribution](#)



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