

# Rhizanthella johnstonii

## Name and Authority

**Rhizanthella johnstonii** K.W.Dixon & Christenh.

## Synonyms (previous names)

Rhizanthella species 'Munglinup'

## Common Name

South Coast Underground Orchid

## Originally Described by

Kingsley Dixon & Maarten Christenhusz in Phytotaxa 334:75-79, Figs. 2A, 3 (2018)

## Distribution and Habitat

North of Munglinup, growing in dense thickets of *Melaleuca hamata*, *M. uncinata* and a closely related unnamed *Melaleuca* [species](#). Soil is coarse sandy-clay or sandy-loam with a thin layer of leaf litter.

## Flowering Months

· · · · · Jun Jul · · · · ·

## Description

A rare [species](#) with up to 60 small, inward facing, white and pink suffused flowers 4–5 mm across, surrounded by six to eight (rarely to 10) large cream to pale pinkish-cream floral bracts which form a tulip-like head.

## Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished from the closely related Western Underground Orchid (*Rhizanthella gardneri*) by its usually later flowering period, paler coloured floral bracts, less numerous flowers and more southerly distribution.

## WA Conservation Code (Threatened Status)

Threatened (Critically Endangered)

## Notes

Named in honour of WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group member(s): Lionel Johnston



[Rhizanthella johnstonii](#)



[Rhizanthella johnstonii distribution](#)



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