

Thelymitra apiculata

Name and Authority

Thelymitra apiculata (A.S.George) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones

Synonyms (previous names)

Thelymitra variegata var. *apiculata*; *Macdonaldia apiculata*

Common Name

Cleopatra's Needles

Complex Name

Thelymitra spiralis/variegata (Lobed Sun Orchids, the Queens)

Originally Described by

Alexander George in *Nuytsia* 5(1): 62, fig. 3I. (1984) as *Thelymitra variegata* var. *apiculata*

Distribution and Habitat

West of Mogumber to Mount Lesueur, growing amongst low shrubs and sedges on the top of lateritic hills.

Flowering Months

· · · · May Jun Jul · · · · ·

Description

An early flowering [species](#) 200–350 mm high with a narrow, smooth, curved or spirally twisted leaf 40–80 mm long by 5–10 mm wide at its wide st point and up to seven (rarely to 12) attractive pink, mauve or purple, yellow marked flowers 25 to 30 mm across.

Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished from the related Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) by its smaller flowers, needle-pointed [lateral column](#) lobes, earlier flowering period and more northerly distribution.

WA Conservation Code (Threatened Status)

Priority Four



[Thelymitra apiculata](#)



[Thelymitra apiculata distribution](#)



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