

Thelymitra variegata

Name and Authority

Thelymitra variegata (Lindl.) F. Muell.

Synonyms (previous names)

Macdonaldia variegata

Common Name

Queen of Sheba

Complex Name

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

Originally Described by

John Lindley in A Sketch of the Vegetation of the Swan River Colony: I (1840) as Macdonaldia variegata

Distribution and Habitat

Bullsbrook to Gracetown, growing in sandy soils in shrublands and woodlands.

Flowering Months

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Description

An attractive species 100–350 mm high with a narrow, smooth leaf 40–90 mm long by 5–10 mm wide at its widest point and up to five deep pink, purple-blotched flowers 30–50 mm across.

Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished from the related Northern Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra pulcherrima*) and Eastern Queen of Sheba (*T. speciosa*) by its similarly coloured (rather than contrastingly coloured) petals and sepals and south-westerly distribution.

WA Conservation Code (Threatened Status)

Threatened (Critically Endangered)

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Thelymitra variegata



Thelymitra variegata distribution



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