

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Dienia montana (previously *Malaxis latifolia*)

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: M. Armstrong

Description

Dienia montana (listed as *Malaxis latifolia*) is a deciduous terrestrial orchid. Its leaves are ovate, thin textured, bright green, to 30 cm x 9 cm, sheathing at the base, with wavy margins. The flower stem grows to 30 cm tall, bearing green-brown or purplish flowers. The lower lip of the flower has three blunt apical teeth, the central one being longest and upturned. Plants are conspicuous when in flower but are very difficult to detect when dormant.

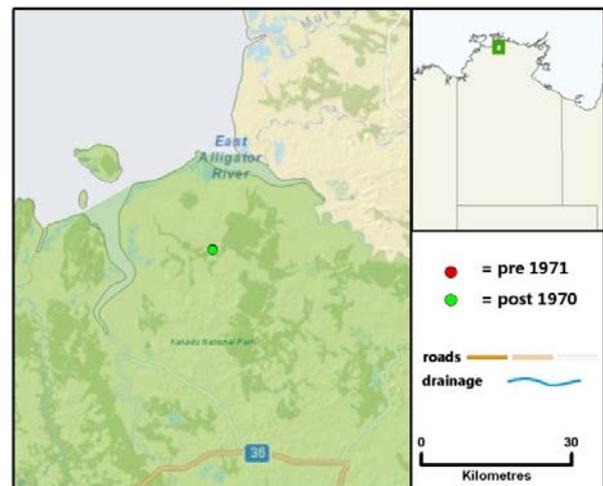
A review of the Genus *Malaxis* by Clements and Jones (1996) proposed raising several subgenera to full genera, including *Dienia*. It is now recognised that the taxon in the Northern Territory (NT) is *D. montana* and is separate from *D. latifolia*, which occurs on Cape York.

Flowering: February- May.

Distribution

The species is recorded from one population only in the NT, near Munmarlary in Kakadu National Park.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Kakadu National Park.



Known locations of *Luisia corrugata*

Ecology

The single NT location is in a wet (spring-fed) rainforest.

Conservation assessment

This species has been recorded from only one locality in the NT, and was last recorded in 1993. The 1993 record counted 27 individual plants. A specific search in 2003 failed to record any plants at this locality (Kerrigan 2003). Although these data support a

category of Critically Endangered, the ephemeral nature of the above ground parts has led us to list the species as **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2) based on:

- a restricted distribution estimated to be <20 km²; and
- a small population.

Threatening processes

With a small population, this species is vulnerable to stochastic events. Feral pigs could detrimentally affect the population. Pressure from collectors is unlikely due to the remote locality.

Conservation objectives and management

Research into the status of the population and the extent of the species is required. A monitoring program should be established. The impact of feral pigs should be assessed, and, if necessary, exclosure fencing established.

Collection of propagation material, translocation to a botanic gardens and commercial availability of stock may protect the species from horticultural harvesting and stochastic events.

Complied by

Raelee Kerrigan
Ian Cowie
Simon Ward
[updated November 2013]

References

- Clements, M.A. & Jones, D.L., (1996) *Crepidium myosotis*, a new species of Orchidaceae from Papua New Guinea. *Lasianthera* **1**, 41.
- Kerrigan, R. (2003). *Kakadu threatened flora report. Results of a threatened flora survey.* (NT Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment, Darwin.)