

Am I your Bush Bud?

Tarengo Leek Orchid

About me:

Believe it or not, Canberra is the orchid capital of Australia. The Tarengo Leek Orchid occurs on relatively fertile soils in grassy woodland or natural grassland.

The Tarengo Leek Orchid are tuberous terrestrial herbs with a single cylindrical leaf resembling the leaves of an onion or leek (hence their common name). Flowers are borne in a spike that ruptures the leaf near its midpoint. Most species have pale greenish or cream flowers with a prominent, often crinkled or undulate labellum. The Tarengo Leek Orchid is a slender herb to 30 cm, its cylindrical leaf reaching 25 cm. A narrow flowering spike is produced in October to November, with 5 to 18 flowers distributed sparsely along it. Flowers are greenish to pinkish mauve, 5–7 mm across, and sweetly scented. Shiny green, obovoid capsules to 4 mm long are produced after flowering.



Credit: Megan - mlech on Canberra Nature Map

Threats:

Habitat loss and degradation as well as competition by weeds is threatening the Tarengo Leek Orchid. Furthermore, as numbers reduce, the orchid is less able to withstand the challenges of drought, waste dumping and inappropriate mowing and parking of vehicles.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Tarengo Leek Orchid!

