

RAINFOREST AND MOIST FOREST GRASS

Hairy jointgrass

Arthraxon hispidus

Key features: Purplish stems. Leaf sheaths start broad and end in a point.

What is it? Creeping grass with branching, erect to semi-erect purplish stems. Perennial, dies down in winter.

Leaves: Leaf-blades 2-6cm long, 7-15mm wide - broad at the base and tapering abruptly to a sharp point, with long white hairs around the edge.

Flower / Seed heads: 2-5 flower / seed clusters per head, held above the plant on a long fine stalk.

Similar species: Flower spikes radiate out from one point, whereas basket grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*) flowers alternate along the main stem.

How rare? Listed as “Vulnerable” on the BC Act.

Where is it? Moisture and shade-loving, in/on edges of rainforest and moist eucalypt forest, often near creeks or swamps. Found in

New England NP, Chaelundi NP / SCA.

Where can I see one?

Source of images: © Greg Steenbeeke, B.K Simon



RAINFOREST HERB

Silver plectranthus *Plectranthus nitidus*

Key features: Rounded toothed leaves with prominent veins.

What is it? Small shrub growing 30-150cm tall. Stem and branches erect to straggling, lower parts fleshy, upper parts hairy.

Leaves: Rounded with serrated edges and 6-8 teeth on each side, 2.5-5.5cm long, 1.5-3.5cm wide, fleshy. Upper surface green, lower surface purple.

Flowers: A spike at end of branches up to 35cm long with a cluster of tubular, blue to mauve flowers from February to May.

Similar species: Many *Plectranthus* spp. in area. Smaller leaves with less teeth than *P. graveolens*. *P. amboinicus* leaves triangular shaped. *P. argentatus* has silvery hairs

How rare? Listed as 'Endangered' on the BC Act.

Where is it? Grows on rocky cliff-faces and boulders within rainforest, particularly along creeks. Found in **New England NP, Chaelundi NP.**

Where can I see one?



Source of images: © Peter Richards

RAINFOREST AND MOIST FOREST SHRUB

Dorrigo daisy bush *Olearia flocktoniae*

Key features: Very narrow leaves. White petalled flowers. Open areas.

What is it? A short-lived single or multi-stemmed (near the base) shrub growing to 2.5m tall.

Leaves: Soft and narrow, alternate, 1-5mm wide and 20-90mm long, sometimes with finely toothed margins.

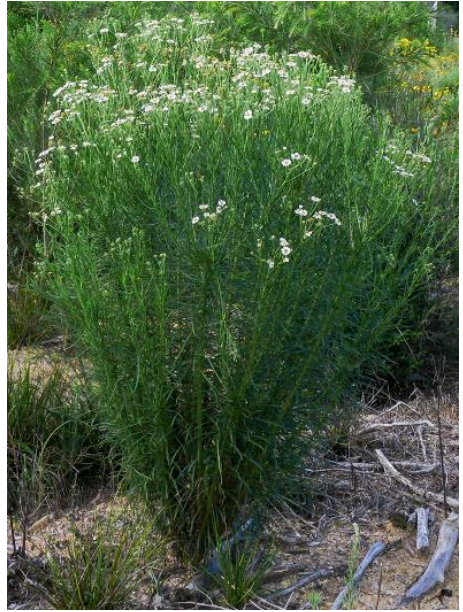
Flowers: Daisy flower heads 19-25mm wide, with 30-48 white petals, sometimes tinged violet. A yellow central disc.

Similar species: Alpine daisy bush (*O. alpicola*) leaves 25-129mm long, 3-23mm wide. *O. chrysophylla* 15-115mm long, 4-38mm wide.

How rare? Listed as 'Vulnerable' on the BC Act.

Where is it? The northern fall of Dorrigo Plateau, mostly on road verges adjoining eucalypt or rainforest. Known from **Nymboi-Binderay NP, Chaelundi NP, Cascade NP, Dorrigo NP**

Where can I see one? Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens, Schultz Rd, and Coramba Rd near Bellingen-Coffs Harbour LGA boundary



RAINFOREST SHRUB

Acalypha

Acalypha eremorum

Key features: Twiggy looking, sometimes leafless. Leaves with blunt teeth. Prominent flowers

What is it? Open-branched twiggy-looking shrub 2-4m tall. Branches have raised spots and often bear spines at the tips.

Leaves: Rounded, almost stalkless leaves 0.3-3.5cm long, with blunt teeth and 5-7 veins on each side of the midrib. Paler below. Young leaves softly hairy. Sheds leaves in dry weather.

Flowers: Tiny male (below right) and female (bottom right) flowers from September-June.

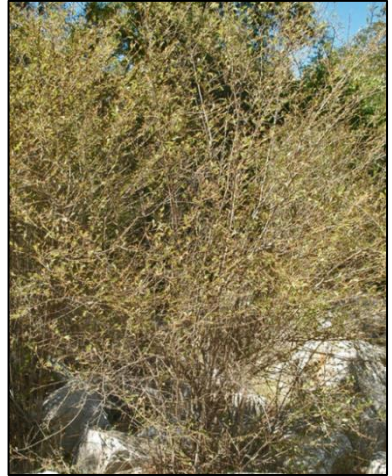
Similar species: Weed *Acalypha australis* only grows to 50cm high and is only sparsely hairy.

How rare? Listed as 'Endangered' on the BC Act.

Where is it? Common in Qld but rare in NSW. Subtropical rainforest, dry rainforest and vine thickets. Found in **Chaelundi NP**.

Where can I see one?

Source of images: © G. Sankowsky



RAINFOREST ORCHID

Ravine orchid

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii

Key features: Broad leaves slightly channelled. Distinctive flowers with crimson spots.

What is it? Loosely hanging clumping orchid.

Leaves: Broad, dark-green slightly channelled leaves to 20cm long, 10-15mm wide.

Flowers: Arching stems to 20cm, each with up to 15 showy and fragrant flowers 3cm across, usually white with crimson spots in the centre (rarely, all crimson).

Similar species: *S. hartmannii* is generally more erect with thicker, paler and more channelled leaves

How rare? Listed as ‘*Vulnerable*’ on the BC Act.

Where is it? Grows mainly on rocks, amongst organic matter, occasional clumps on the bases of fibrous-barked trees. In cool, moist, shady ravines, gorges and on cliff faces in dense subtropical rainforest 500-700m asl. Known from **Dorrigo NP, New England NP.**

Where can I see one?



RAINFOREST, MOIST FOREST ORCHID

Blotched sarcochilus

Sarcochilus weinthalii

Key features: Leathery leaves and aerial roots. Blotchy red-purple flowers.

What is it? Orchid with fleshy aerial roots and short stems.

Leaves: Thin leathery leaves, 3-9cm long, 7-12mm wide, slightly channelled.

Flowers: Loosely hanging stems, up to 7cm long with 3-12 flowers that are 15mm across, cream to greenish with purple to reddish blotches.

Similar species: Blotched flowers easily recognisable. When not in flower, *S. falcatus* has stiffer / more leathery leaves and black old flower shoots when dry

How rare? Listed as “Vulnerable” on the BC Act.

Where is it? Grows on rainforest trees, either projecting or partly hanging from trunks, occasionally growing on rocks, from 300-900m asl. Found in **Dorrigo NP**.



Where can I see one?

Source of images: © Greg Steenbeeke

RAINFOREST AND MOIST FOREST ORCHID

Red-flowered king of the fairies *Oberonia titania*

Key features: Grows on trees and rocks. Fan-shaped leaves. Tiny red flowers.

What is it? Small orchid growing on trees and rocks. Each plant has one to several shoots in a tight, iris-like clump.

Leaves: 4-10 leaves per shoot. Leaves are narrowly oval- to spear-shaped, 1-8cm long, 2-8mm wide, and green to greenish pink in colour.

Flowers: 50-350 tiny red flowers are borne on erect to drooping stems 5-17cm long, autumn and spring.

Similar species: *Oberonia complanata* has leaves 3-15cm long, 10-15mm wide.

How rare? Listed as “Vulnerable” on the BC Act.

Where is it? Littoral and subtropical rainforest and paperbark swamps, but also in eucalypt-forested gorges and in mangroves. Found in **New England NP, Baalijin NR, Dorrigo NP.**

Where can I see one?

