

Spiral sun-orchid

Scientific name: ***Thelymitra matthewsii***

National status (*EPBC Act 1999*): **Endangered**

South Australian status: (*NPW Act 1972*): **Endangered**

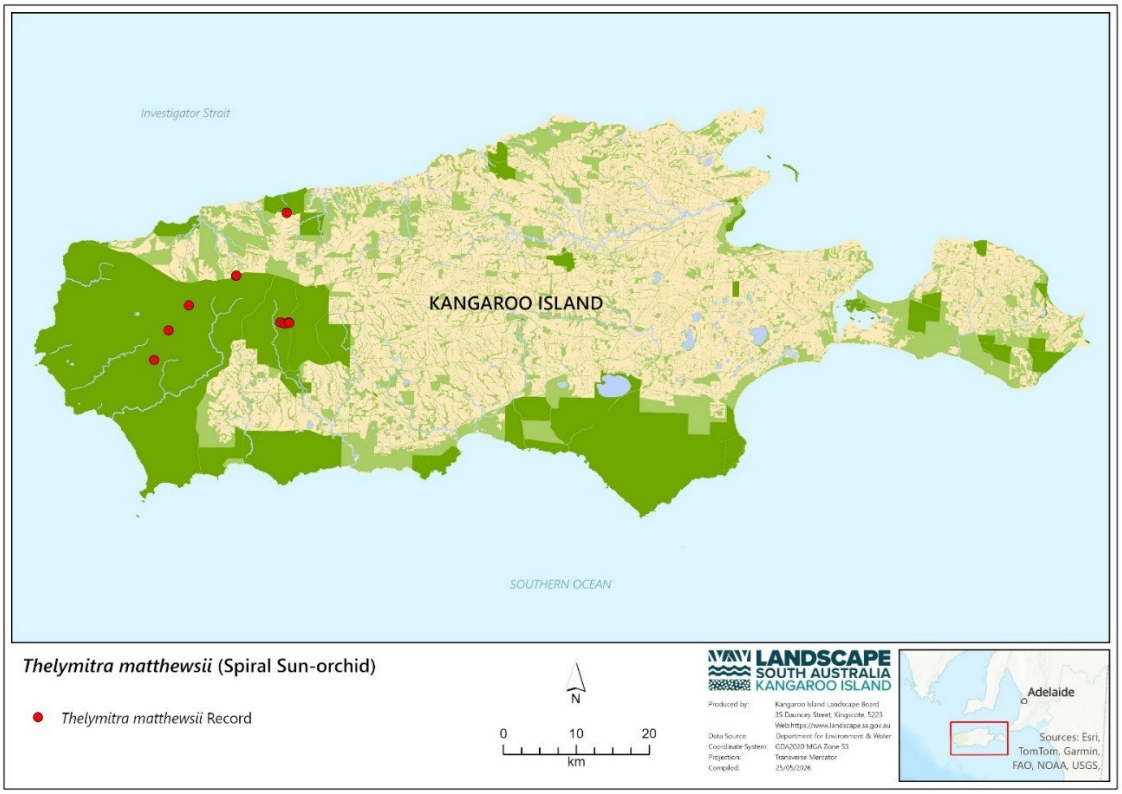
Description:

Annual terrestrial orchid emerging in spring with a unique, easily identifiable, spirally twisted leaf to 6 cm long. Usually one, rarely two, flowers to 20 cm high. Flowers are purple to red with darker stripes and a yellow apex. Flowering between August and September.

Distribution:

Found on the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and the South-east of South Australia. On Kangaroo Island it mainly grows on ironstone gravel within mallee heathland.

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Specific threats:

Threats to *Thelymitra matthewsii* include vegetation clearance and disturbance (from road maintenance and fire prevention works), inappropriate fire regimes (lack of fire or too frequent fires), climate change and declining genetic viability due to a small and fragmented population.

Image credit left: SA Seed Conservation Centre, centre: Denzel Murfet

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LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA KANGAROO ISLAND

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