

# Leafless Tongue Orchid



This orchid's common name reflects its appearance; a leafless orchid with a maroon coloured flower that looks like a tongue! Well, sort of. A very hairy, colourful tongue!

The leafless tongue orchid is found in coastal areas in swampy heathland and woodland on sandy soils in the Shoalhaven. It is threatened by expanding urban development. This orchid can only be seen when it flowers in summer. Once it has finished flowering it disappears for the rest of the year. For this reason it can be very hard to find! A very cryptic threatened species indeed. When clearing land for new development in areas of suitable habitat, we need to make sure surveys are done at the right time of year so that if they are found we can protect them.

**Name:**

**Age:**

**School:**