

Sun orchid shines near York

Until keen orchid enthusiast Fred Hort's recent discovery of more than sixteen new populations, totalling more than 600 plants, the cinnamon sun orchid (*Thelymitra dedmaniarum*) was known from only a few hundred plants in the wild.

Fred, who found the plants about 20 kilometres west of York, called on the Plant Identification Unit at CALM's WA Herbarium in Como, recounting his exciting discovery, and believing, at first, that he had found a new species.

The identity of the plant was confirmed by CALM's WA Threatened Species and Communities orchid specialist Andrew Brown.



Sun Orchid Thelymitra dedmaniarum. Photo courtesy of Western Power

The cinnamon sun orchid occurs in open wandoo woodland on granitic slopes, running down to creeklines in the hills above Perth, and is declared as rare flora.

First collected in 1934 by its namesakes Mrs and Miss Dedman, it is an attractive plant with a distinctive golden-yellow coloured flower and a distinctive cinnamon perfume.

The cinnamon Sun Orchid was reinstated as a species in 1987 by former CALM senior research scientist Stephen Hopper, after it was brought to his attention by Bill Mangini, a resident of the York region and an orchid enthusiast.

by Leigh Sage



Thelymitra dedmaniae
(*benthamiana*)