PLANT FACT SHEET

Calochilus robertsonii Benth.

GENUS *Calochilus* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple beard orchid, Brown Beards, Red Beard Orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root, Seeds

The tuber is eaten after roasting.
The seeds are ground into flour and used to make bread.

DESCRIPTION

A stout fleshy orchid. It keeps growing from year to year but dies back in winter. It grows 35 cm high and spreads 15 cm wide. The stem is thick. The leaf near the base is ribbed. It clasps the stem. There are bracts on the stem. The flowering stem is 25-45 cm high. There are 4-6 flowers. They are green with purple stripes. The labellum is reddish purple and bearded.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in heaths and scrub and open Eucalypt forest. It grows on well drained soil and rocky ground. It does best in light humus-rich soil in a protected shady position. It is sensitive to drought and tender to frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by division.

NOTES

There are 11 Calochilus species found in Australasia. The Tasmanian one may be Calochilus platychilus.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/baef3545-752c-4e22-879b-c9b38bf587be