*Calanthe triplicata* (Willemet) Ames

**Family:** Orchidaceae


**Common name:** Christmas Orchid

**Stem**

Occasionally flowers and fruits as a shrub about 1 m tall, frequently flowers when smaller.

**Leaves**

Leaves lanceolate, borne on a pseudobulb at ground level and then enlarging. Leaf blades about 25-90 x 6-11.5 cm, gradually tapering to the sheathing base. Venation longitudinal and parallel with about 6-9 veins more prominent than the rest.

**Flowers**

Flowers produced in erect racemes about 30-150 cm long. Flowers about 15-40 mm diam. Pedicels about 40-45 mm long. Tepals about 18 x 9 mm, apices acute. Labellum about 15 x 23 mm.

**Fruit**

Capsules obovoid to cylindrical, about 4 cm long, splitting longitudinally but remaining intact at the base and the apex. Seeds very small, winged. Embryo cream.

**Seedlings**

Features not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Occurs in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in CYP and NEQ from 700-1250 m. Usually grows in the more open areas in upland and mountain rain forest particularly in rocky situations. Also occurs in Asia, Malesia and the Pacific islands.

**Natural History & Notes**

This showy terrestrial orchid is commonly cultivated by enthusiasts and in shaded parts of the garden.

**Synonyms**


**RFK Code**

3456