

Ghost orchid

Epipogium aphyllum Swartz

DESCRIPTION

The ghost orchid lives hidden in the damp litter of dark, ancient beech forests. Only sporadically, in rainy years with high humidity and temperatures, the flowers of this orchid can be observed for a few days in July.

HABITAT

Shady humid ancient forests stocking over impermeable clay layers.

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and southern Central Europe, Central Asia.



THREATS

Deterioration of intact ancient forests with high levels of air and soil moisture, increasing summer droughts.

PROTECTION

CITES Washington Convention – Annex II
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species – Least Concern
EU Wildlife Trade Regulation Annex B.

Text: Thierry Helminger,
Laura Daco, Guy Colling
photos: Fernand Lommer

