

White orchid

Goodyera macrophylla Lowe

DESCRIPTION

Geophyte, with creeping branching rhizomes which forms more or less dense clonal aggregates, erect and robust stem (30 to 70 cm), with 6 to 9 basilar leaves, oblong-elliptic, acuminate, arranged vertically, dark green in colour. Inflorescence in a spike, from 10 to 20 cm, usually with 20 to 60 small white flowers.

HABITAT

Cliffs and ravines but also flat areas, partially shaded, on acidic and humid soils, in the Laurissilva forest.



DISTRIBUTION

Endemic in the north and centre of Madeira Island, Portugal.

THREATS

Trampling, collapse of terrain, landslides, tourism and plant collection. Influence of climate change on the Laurissilva forest and the introduction of exotic species.

PROTECTION

CITES Washington Convention – Annex II
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species – Critically Endangered
Habitats Directive – Annex II and IV
Bern Convention – Annex I.

Text: Américo Pereira, Joaquim Pessoa, Luísa Borges
photos: Américo Pereira

