

Pale-flowered orchid

Orchis pallens L.

DESCRIPTION

Orchis pallens produces one tuber per year, and as the new tuber develops, the old one disappears. It has 4-6 leaves, arranged in basal rosette. It has a strong, straight, green stem, which is 15–45 cm tall. It has pale yellow or yellow flowers. It blooms between April and May.

HABITAT

It grows in mountain meadows, alpine pastures, scrub, woodland edges and open woodland, both deciduous and coniferous.

DISTRIBUTION

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Corse, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Krym, North Caucasus, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Transcaucasus, Turkey, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

THREATS

Succession processes, overgrowth of suitable habitats, farming, urbanisation and infrastructure expansion, tourism, deforestation and plant collection. The biggest threat in Turkey is the uncontrolled or illegal collection of excessive amounts from nature to obtain salep powder.

PROTECTION

CITES Washington Convention – Annex II
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species – Least Concern.

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