

# Hochstetter's butterfly-orchid

*Platanthera azorica* Schltr.

## DESCRIPTION

Plant with a height of 10 - 20 (35) cm; 2 (1) large basal leaves, oblong-lanceolate; 2 to 4 stem leaves. Yellowish-green flowers, 10 to 25; lateral sepals oval-lanceolate, sometimes arranged nearly horizontally. Linear-lanceolate labellum, strongly reflexed; spur measuring 1.8 to 9.5 mm in length.

## HABITAT

Altitude meadows, low shrublands of *Erica* and *Calluna* and roadsides with remnants of native vegetation.



## DISTRIBUTION

Plant endemic to the Azores Archipelago, Portugal, currently it can be found only on Sao Jorge and Faial islands.

## THREATS

Habitat loss due to pasture creation and planting of exotic species like the Himalayan *Hedychium gardnerianum*, the Australian *Pittosporum undulatum*, and the American *Lantana camara*. Tourism and plant collection are also threats.

## PROTECTION

CITES Washington Convention – Annex II.

Text: José Monteiro, Joaquim Pessoa, Luísa Borges  
photos: José Monteiro