

Narrow-lipped butterfly-orchid

Platanthera micrantha (Seub.) Schltr.

DESCRIPTION

Plant with a height of 25 - 40 (60) cm; 2 (3) large basal leaves, oblong-lanceolate to ovate; 2 to 6 stem leaves. Small, yellowish-green flowers, 30 to 60; elliptical lateral sepals, sometimes with an almost vertical arrangement. Linear-lanceolate labellum, short, projecting forward and curving upward; spur measuring 1.7 to 7.3 mm in length.

HABITAT

Humid places on slopes and craters, in shrublands of *Calluna*.



DISTRIBUTION

Plant endemic to the Azores Archipelago, Portugal, it can be found on Sao Miguel, Terceira, Santa Maria, Sao Jorge, Pico, Faial, Flores and Corvo islands.

THREATS

Habitat loss due to pasture creation, road construction and planting of exotic species. Tourism and plant collection are also threats.

PROTECTION

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

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