

Short-spurred butterfly-orchid

Platanthera pollostantha R.M.Bateman & M.Moura

DESCRIPTION

Plant with a height of 25 - 45 (70) cm; 2 large basal leaves, oblong-lanceolate; 2 to 6 stem leaves. Small, yellowish-green flowers, 30 to 60; elliptical lateral sepals, oriented closer to horizontal than vertical. Linear-lanceolate labellum, near-vertical, apex recurved; spur measuring 0.8 to 3.1 mm in length.

HABITAT

Sloping areas, craters and natural meadows on *Erica* shrublands, *Juniperus* forests and old *Cryptomeria* plantations.



DISTRIBUTION

Plant endemic to the Azores Archipelago, Portugal, it can be found on all the islands.

THREATS

Habitat loss due to road construction 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