Terract

The Living Connections

THE WILD ORCHIDS OF CYPRUS

An island of extraordinary diversity

PEOPLE | NATURE | PLACE

VASSILIKI PETROPOULOU PANAYIOTOU



CHAPTER ONE

THE HELLEBORINES

EPIPACTIS & CEPHALANTHERA





Epipactis veratrifolia

BROAD-LEAVED HELLEBORINE

FLOWERING PERIOD

June and July.

INTERESTING FACT

A sprawling plant found near streams and wet places, often in great quantity and usually on high ground.



Epipactis microphylla

SMALL-LEAVED HELLEBORINE

FLOWERING PERIOD

June.

INTERESTING FACT

A small weak, slender plant usually single. It is quite hairy with small leaves and about 12 small white flowers.



Epipactis condensata

DENSE-FLOWERED HELLEBORINE

FLOWERING PERIOD

July.

INTERESTING FACT

Tall plant with many pale green flowers that open from nodding buds and often attracts aphids and ants.



Epipactis troodi

TROODOS HELLEBORINE

FLOWERING PERIOD

July and sometimes
into August.

INTERESTING FACT

A slender orchid with neat, hairless stems and a small bud at the top. The flowers often droop before opening.



Cephalanthera rubra

RED HELLEBORINE

FLOWERING PERIOD

June.

INTERESTING FACT

The flowers have a distinctive ridged lip with yellow markings on a white (pink-edged) background.

CHAPTER TWO

THE OPHRYSES

THE BEE ORCHIDS





Ophrys iricolor

RAINBOW OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

February.

INTERESTING FACT

A sturdy plant, fairly tall for an *Ophrys*, with large very striking flowers which open early in the season. The labellum has deep blue markings and is red on the back.



Ophrys funerea

DARK OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

February.

INTERESTING FACT

A small, early-flowering *Ophrys* found in grassland, scrub and open woodland.



Ophrys sicula

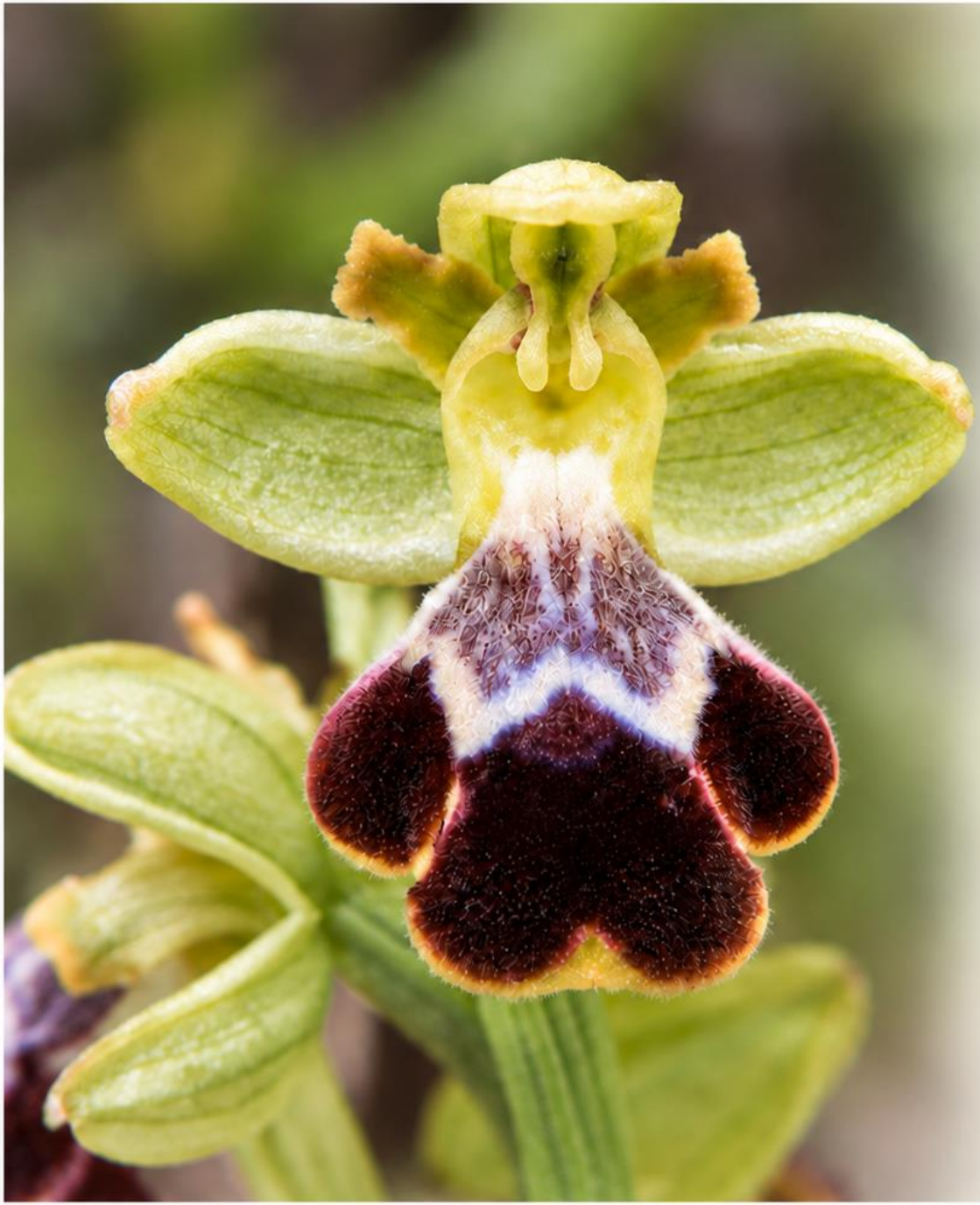
'GALILEA'

FLOWERING PERIOD

February.

INTERESTING FACT

Usually a small plant with small flowers looking mainly yellow or greenish with a dark centre.
Look for the narrow dark centre and forked tip to the labellum.



Ophrys omegaifera

OMEGA OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

Look for the omega-shaped marking and the flat, horizontally held labellum.



Ophrys israelitica

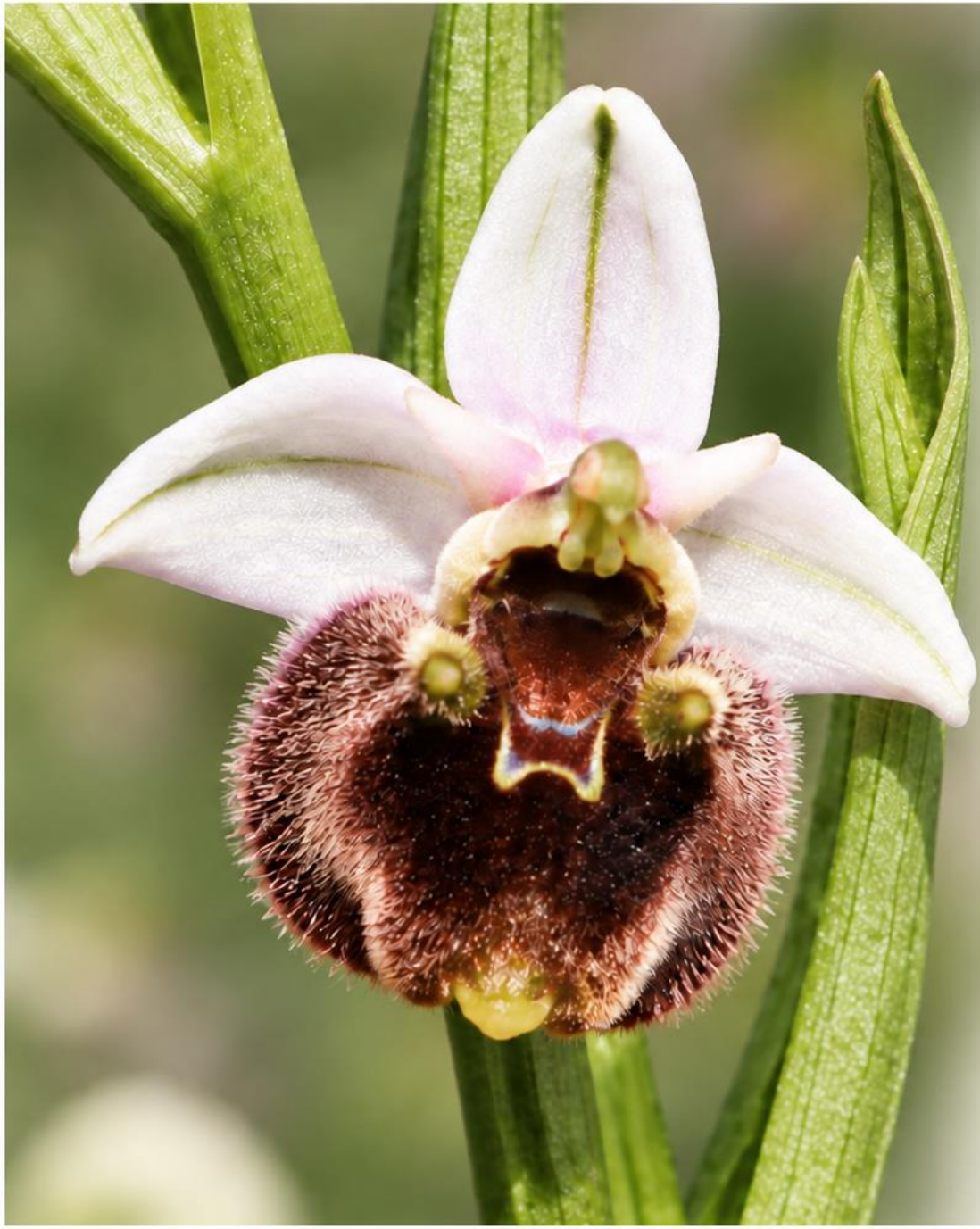
ISRAEL OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

February.

INTERESTING FACT

Flat, hanging labellum with a pale blue-grey, marbled speculum and a clear omega at the tip.



Ophrys levantina

LEVANTINE OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

Early February.

INTERESTING FACT

Very hairy labellum, sepals spreading wide and slightly rolled back, and a face-like labellum shape.



Ophrys bornmuelleri

BORNMUELLER'S OPHRYS

FLOWERING PERIOD

From mid-March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

Labellum square to one-lobed, held forward, with a deep notch at the tip and a hairy appendage.



Ophrys tenthredinifera

SAWFLY ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

First half of March.

INTERESTING FACT

The shape and colour of the sepals and the hairy, rectangular labellum with a yellow appendage resemble a sawfly.



Ophrys apifera

FLOWERING PERIOD

April.

INTERESTING FACT

Its dark, velvety labellum has a complex pattern and shape that resembles a bee.


Ophrys apifera
variant bicolor


Ophrys apifera
variant chlorantha


Ophrys apifera
variant *nigra*



Ophrys rhodia

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

Usually a strong-growing plant, with well-spaced small flowers which are long-lasting. The sepals and petals are vivid green and the green tinge extends to the labellum which has a prominent appendage and complex speculum.



Ophrys umbilicata

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

Bulbous labellum, bent dorsal sepal and distinctive colour and pattern of the sepals and labellum.



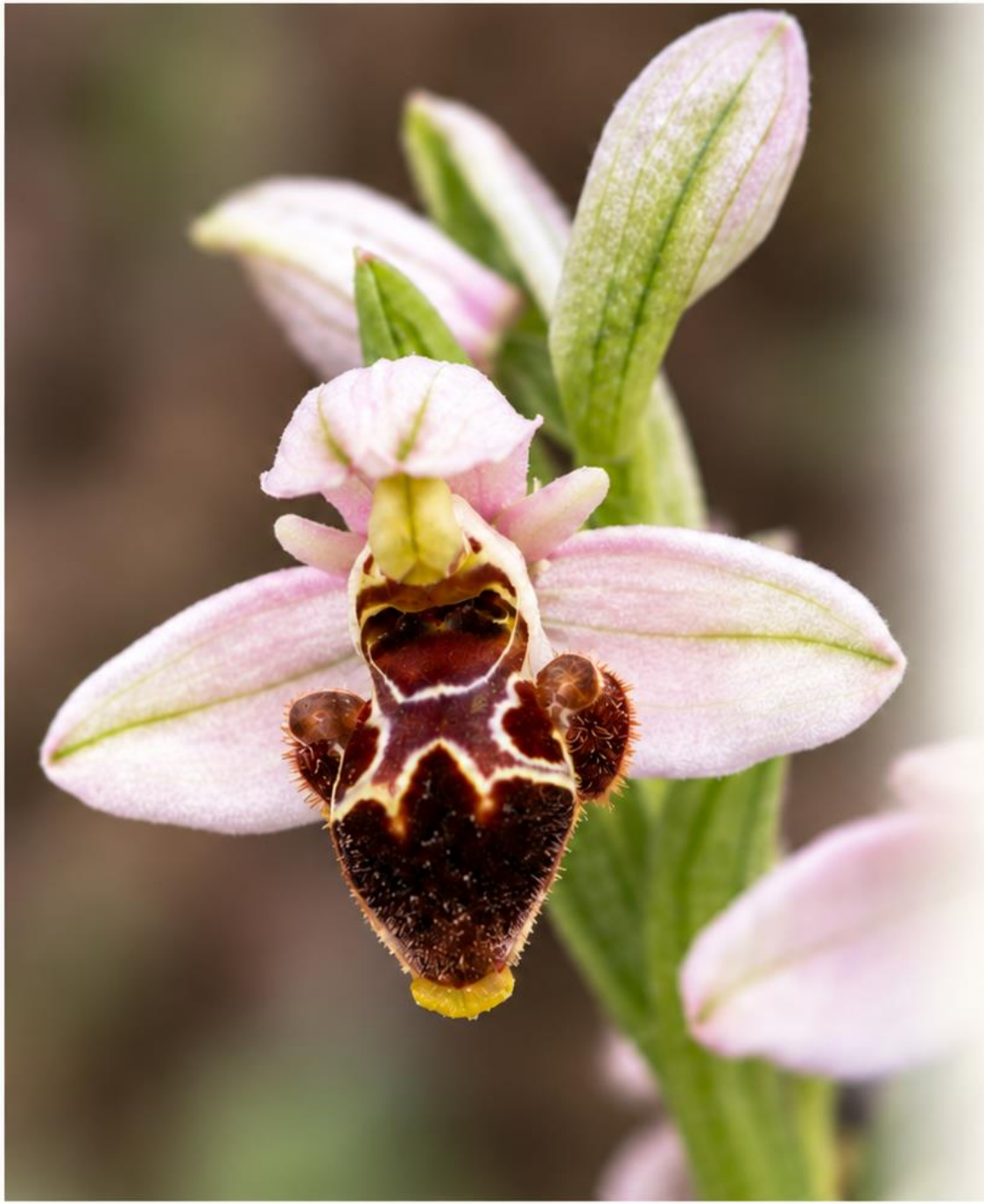
Ophrys flavomarginata

FLOWERING PERIOD

February or March.

INTERESTING FACT

A strong-growing plant which has green sepals and petals and a greenish edging to the labellum. Wide, greenish-yellow border to the labellum, together with its position and the speculum.



Ophrys lapethica

FLOWERING PERIOD

Usually in March.

INTERESTING FACT

The shape of the labellum, with its long drawn-out median lobe and the shape and position of the appendage, are key features.



Ophrys kotschyi

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

Look for the large burgundy labellum and its elaborate patterned speculum.



Ophrys elegans

FLOWERING PERIOD

February.

INTERESTING FACT

Look for the strongly bent-back sepals, triangular labellum, tiny speculum and brown stripe across the white stigmatic cavity.



Ophrys mammosa

FLOWERING PERIOD

March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

The H-shaped speculum and the reddish labellum with its large “mammary” swellings are characteristic of this species.



Ophrys mammosa planimaculata

A RARE VARIANT OF O. MAMMOSA

FLOWERING PERIOD

March and April.

INTERESTING FACT

A rare variant of *O. mammosa*, found at one site only and growing with *O. mammosa*. It has no H-shaped speculum, but instead a large area of bright pale blue.



Ophrys herae

FLOWERING PERIOD

Early to mid March.

INTERESTING FACT

Small details, such as the colour of the labellum, the basal area and the ‘eyes’, help to identify this species within the group.



Ophrys sintenisii

FLOWERING PERIOD

February or March.

INTERESTING FACT

Similar to *O. herae* in plant stature but a little later flowering.



Ophrys transhyrcana

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

The shape of the labellum, and the very stiff, narrow-looking sepals, are the most reliable identifiers of this species.

CHAPTER THREE

THE HOODED ORCHIDS

SERAPIAS





Serapias parviflora

FLOWERING PERIOD

April.

INTERESTING FACT

The petals are shaped like a drawn-out drop of liquid; the small labellum and its position (bent towards the stem) are distinctive features.



Serapias politisii

formerly ***Serapias aphroditae***

FLOWERING PERIOD

Early April.

INTERESTING FACT

The petals are almost circular at the base with a fine drawn-out upper part; the deep colour and small size of the flower are significant features.



Serapias bergonii

FLOWERING PERIOD

March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

The petal shape, the greenish centre and the long bract are all significant in identification.



Serapias vomeracea

FLOWERING PERIOD

April.

INTERESTING FACT

The overall size, particularly of the bracts, and their shape are all significant features, as well as the late flowering.



Serapias levantina

formerly ***Serapias orientalis***

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

The stocky habit, the deep colour and the long violet hairs should identify this orchid.



Serapias orientalis

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

The labellum is deep red or pale (sometimes peach-coloured) with long white hairs; the epichile is wide with the edges curling forwards slightly.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE TRUE ORCHIDS

ORCHIS





Anacamptis coriophora

formerly Orchis fragrans

FLOWERING PERIOD

Towards the end of April.

INTERESTING FACT

The many spotted flowers, the vanilla scent and the late flowering are distinctive.



Anacamptis sancta

formerly Orchis sancta

FLOWERING PERIOD

Late April and into May.

INTERESTING FACT

The labellum shape, clear unspotted colour and very late flowering are distinctive.



Anacamptis palustris

formerly Orchis palustris

FLOWERING PERIOD

May.

INTERESTING FACT

The combination of tall habit, flower shape and colour, whitish grooved labellum and late flowering are distinctive.



Anacamptis laxiflora

formerly Orchis laxiflora

FLOWERING PERIOD

April, often near water.

INTERESTING FACT

The loose arrangement of the flowers, prominent spur and distinctive labellum help separate it from the closely related *A. palustris*.



Anacamptis syriaca

formerly Orchis syriaca

FLOWERING PERIOD

April, often near water.

INTERESTING FACT

The loose arrangement of the flowers, prominent spur and distinctive labellum help separate it from the closely related *A. palustris*.



Anacamptis papilionacea

formerly Orchis papiliionacea

FLOWERING PERIOD

April.

INTERESTING FACT

A small plant with few to fairly numerous flowers, with green-veined red to violet sepals and a fan-shaped labellum, which may be the same colour or paler, and plain or marked with lines and dashes.



Anacamptis collina

formerly Orchis collina

FLOWERING PERIOD

December to January.

INTERESTING FACT

One of the earliest orchids to flower, with a distinctive fan-shaped labellum and a short, fleshy, downward-pointing spur.



Anacamptis collina
var. leucoglossa
formerly Orchis collina

FLOWERING PERIOD

December to January.

INTERESTING FACT

This is the white variant (var. *leucoglossa*) of *Anacamptis collina*, with a white labellum with green-tinged edges and no hint of colour. It is one of the earliest orchids to flower, with a distinctive fan-shaped labellum and a short, fleshy, downward-pointing spur.



Orchis anatolica

formerly Orchis troodi

Troodos Orchid

FLOWERING PERIOD

March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

A fairly small orchid with large pink flowers, which get deeper in colour as they finish flowering. The labellum is pale in the centre with two rows of spots, and the lateral sepals point upwards. The spur usually points backwards and upwards.



Orchis anatolica

formerly Orchis troodi

FLOWERING PERIOD

March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

A small orchid with delicate pale-pink flowers and a deep reddish stem, usually found in small numbers in light woodland. The pale-centred labellum has two rows of spots, and the spur tapers back almost straight, or curves up a little to a fine point.



Orchis quadripunctata

FLOWERING PERIOD

March to April.

INTERESTING FACT

The small flowers have an almost flat labellum with two rows of spots (four in total), and a fine, downward-pointing spur.



Orchis simia

FLOWERING PERIOD

Late March.

INTERESTING FACT

The deeply divided labellum has long, curved ‘limbs’, giving each flower its distinctive monkey-like appearance.



Orchis punctulata

FLOWERING PERIOD

Early March.

INTERESTING FACT

The three-lobed labellum is yellow, often finely spotted with brown with fine hair at the centre.



Orchis italica

Naked Man Orchid

FLOWERING PERIOD

Mid to late March.

INTERESTING FACT

The labellum is divided into three lobes, the middle one with two long, narrow tips and a central tooth, and is pale pink, often with darker spots and streaks.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE GIANT ORCHID

HIMANTOGLOSSUM ROBERTIANUM

(formerly Barlia robertiana)





Barlia robertiana

Giant Orchid

FLOWERING PERIOD

Early March.

INTERESTING FACT

The flowers are rather large and man-shaped, with a three-lobed labellum that hangs down and is pale, often spotted with pink.

CHAPTER SIX

THE SMALL JEWELS

OTHER GENERA





Neotinia maculata

DENSE-FLOWERED ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

March.

INTERESTING FACT

The flowers are very numerous and tightly packed, with a three-lobed labellum that often hangs down but tends to point forwards, forming a half-closed tube.



Anacamptis pyramidalis

PYRAMIDAL ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

April.

INTERESTING FACT

The flower head is densely packed with many small flowers, giving it a distinctive pyramidal shape.



Limodorum abortivum

VIOLET LIMODORE

FLOWERING PERIOD

June.

INTERESTING FACT

The flowers have a distinctive crimped lip, streaked violet and white, which projects forward.



Spiranthes spiralis

AUTUMN LADIES' TRESSES

FLOWERING PERIOD

November.

INTERESTING FACT

The small white flowers are arranged in a spiral around the stem, which gives this species its name.



Platanthera holmboei

(LESSER) BUTTERFLY ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

May and June.

INTERESTING FACT

The green flowers have a long hanging labellum and a fine spur going back and down.



Dactylorhiza iberica

IBERIAN MARSH ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

June.

INTERESTING FACT

A medium-sized plant with long grasslike leaves which stand stiffly up round the stem, and delicate lilac flowers.



Dactylorhiza romana

ROMAN MARSH ORCHID

FLOWERING PERIOD

May and June.

INTERESTING FACT

A fairly short but sturdy plant, with numerous pale yellow flowers with prominent wide bracts; usually found in good numbers, in shady places such as open woodland.

Terract

BUILDING CULTURE,
SHAPING LANDSCAPES.

Among the Stones, Orchids Bloom

THE WILD ORCHIDS OF SALAMIOU

A BOOK ON THE WILD ORCHIDS OF SALAMIOU

Salamiou's terraced landscapes and ancient dry stone walls are more than beautiful scenery — they are living landscapes. These stones hold soil, water and life, creating rich habitats where wild orchids and many other plants thrive.

This book celebrates the close connection between people, place and nature. By valuing and protecting our traditional landscapes, we help safeguard the wild orchids of Salamiou for future generations.

A living landscape is built on relationships.

VASSILIKI PETROPOULOU PANAYIOTOU
FOUNDER, TERRACT

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- Mediterranean Orchid Conservation. mediterraneanorchids.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Photographs by Andri Kedariti and other contributors, taken in and around Salamiou, Cyprus.

A FINAL NOTE

Wild orchids are a precious part of Cyprus's natural heritage.
Please admire and protect them. Do not pick or disturb them.
Let's keep Salamiou beautiful for future generations.



Wild orchids near Salamiou, Cyprus
Photograph: Andri Kedariti

LagriaRandB.com