



This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey



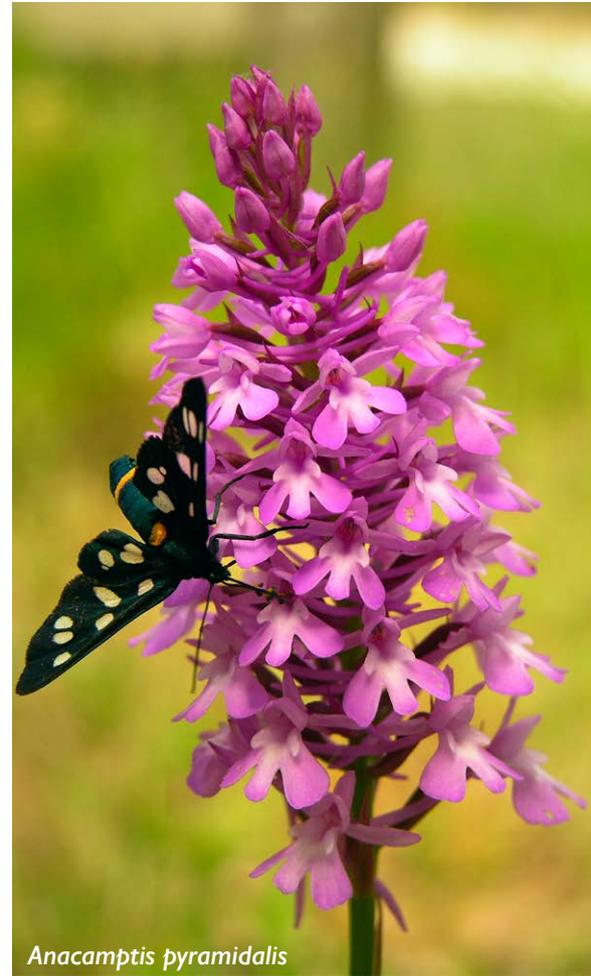
Interactive Conservation Platform for Orchids



Himantoglossum robertianum

Orchid species are known for their attractive flowers. Their beauty is present even in their smallest details. Mother nature has bestowed some species upon only one region; these species are called endemic. Some of these endemic species, such as *Ophrys epirotica* have a broad distribution within their range; other are restricted only to very small area. Species with a narrow distribution and small populations are vulnerable and may easily become extinct.

Both Turkey and Greece host a natural treasure of wild orchids, totaling more than 400 different species. Unlike the cultivated orchids we see in florists' shops, usually tropical epiphytic species, our native orchid species are terrestrial. Because of their ecological requirements, these species generally prefer maquis scrubland and forested areas.

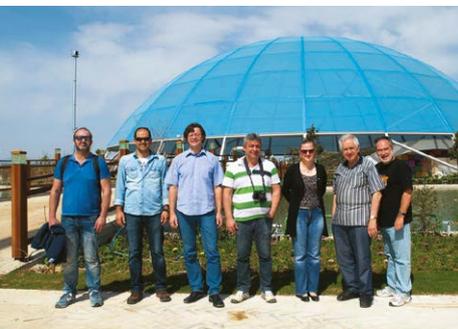


Anacamptis pyramidalis



Ophrys epirotica

Environmental non-governmental organisations, in both Greece and Turkey, are working to study and protect wild orchids. The orchid species found on the two sides of the Aegean belong to the same broad complex. NGOs from both countries are working together, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, in the context of the project “**Interactive Conservation Platform for Orchids Native to Greece-Turkey**”. As if the orchids have built a bridge between our two countries...



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Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature





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**Interactive
Conservation
Platform
for Orchids**

ATTENTION: Salep is killing off the orchids!



Ophrys lycia

*Each tuber
weighs about
half a gram.*

*When we drink
a cup of Salep,
we destroy
two orchid plants...*

*When we eat
a bowl of ice cream,
we destroy three
orchid plants...*

Salep is the powder derived from the dried bulbs of several terrestrial species in the Orchidaceae family. It is used in winter mainly in Turkey, but also in Greece, as a beverage. Additionally, it is used in Turkey as an ingredient for the preparation of ice-cream.

It is the most significant extinction threat for the wild orchids of Greece and Turkey.

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Interactive Conservation Platform for Orchids

The programme “**Civil Social Dialogue between Turkey and the European Union**” is funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey. This project aims to public and stakeholder awareness about the policies and practices European Union uses in various subjects and at different levels.



The **Sails-For-Science Foundation** was founded in Germany, by German scientists, with the purpose to connect scientific research with environmental conservation. Its main goal is to promote and establish partnerships between relevant stakeholders and organizations.

The **Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature** was founded in 1951 aiming for the protection of nature in Greece. Its mission is not only to increase awareness of Greek citizens and philhellenes about the natural legacy of Greece but also to take action for its protection.



The **Association for the Conservation of Antalya Orchids and Biodiversity** was founded in 2010, in Antalya, Turkey. Its members are experienced scientists in the fields of monitoring and documentation of endemic and rare species belonging to the flora of Antalya. It carries out nature conservation and education activities in order to increase the environmental values in society, especially to the students, future of the country.

The **ICON project** is a collaborative action involving three NGOs from Greece, Germany and Turkey with the scope of increasing public awareness on the threats that affect wild orchid populations in Greece and Turkey.



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