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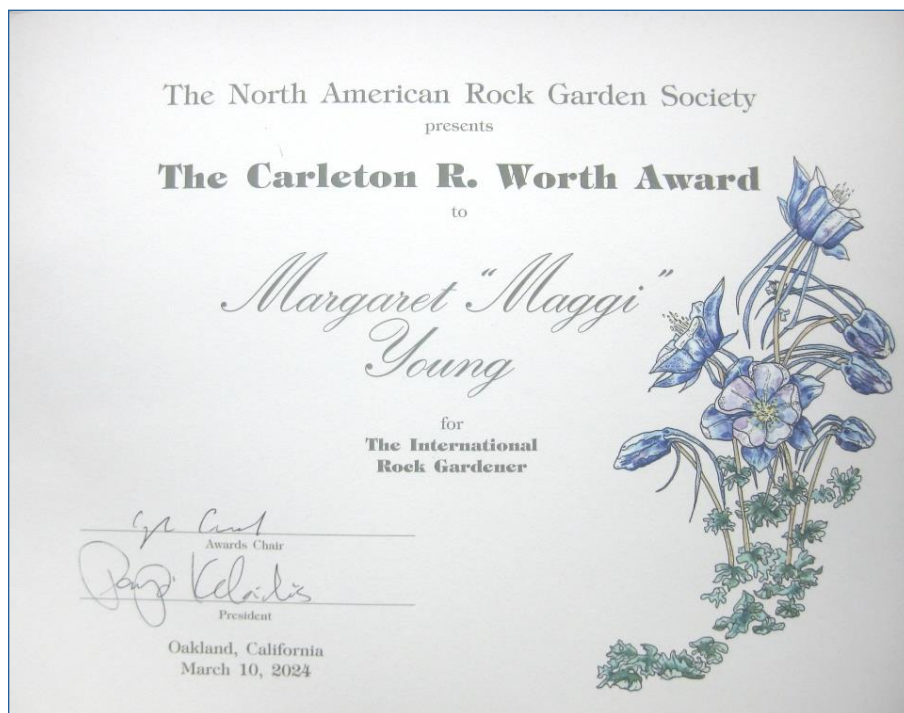
This month's offering begins with an article on the orchids to be found in the "Low Countries" of the Netherlands and Belgium, by Gerrit Eijkelenboom, who enjoys searching for orchids at home and abroad and is kind enough to share his finds with us. Next we have two plant portraits from our sister magazine of the Klub skalničkářů Praha, "Skalničky". I am pleased to be able to republish these pieces from Zdeněk Řeháček, who is well known to readers of the SRGC Forum, and of course, fellow IRG founder Zdeněk Zvolanek, along with a photo from Zdeněk Hlavoň.

Cover photo: *Liparis loeselii*. By Gerrit Eijkelenboom.

"Blowing our own trumpet" – as the saying goes!

I do hope I will be forgiven for this shameless self-advertisement – but the honour also goes to the IRG so I trust the guilt is mitigated. Last month, at the North American Rock Garden Society Oakland, California Study weekend, the Carleton R. Worth Award was made to me, Margaret Young as the IRG editor.

This prestigious honour, established in 1985, is given to an author or editor of distinguished writings about rock gardening and rock garden plants in a book or in magazine articles so you see that this award is truly a distinction for all involved in the IRG. I am proud to have been given this tremendous accolade and am most grateful to the Board of NARGS for



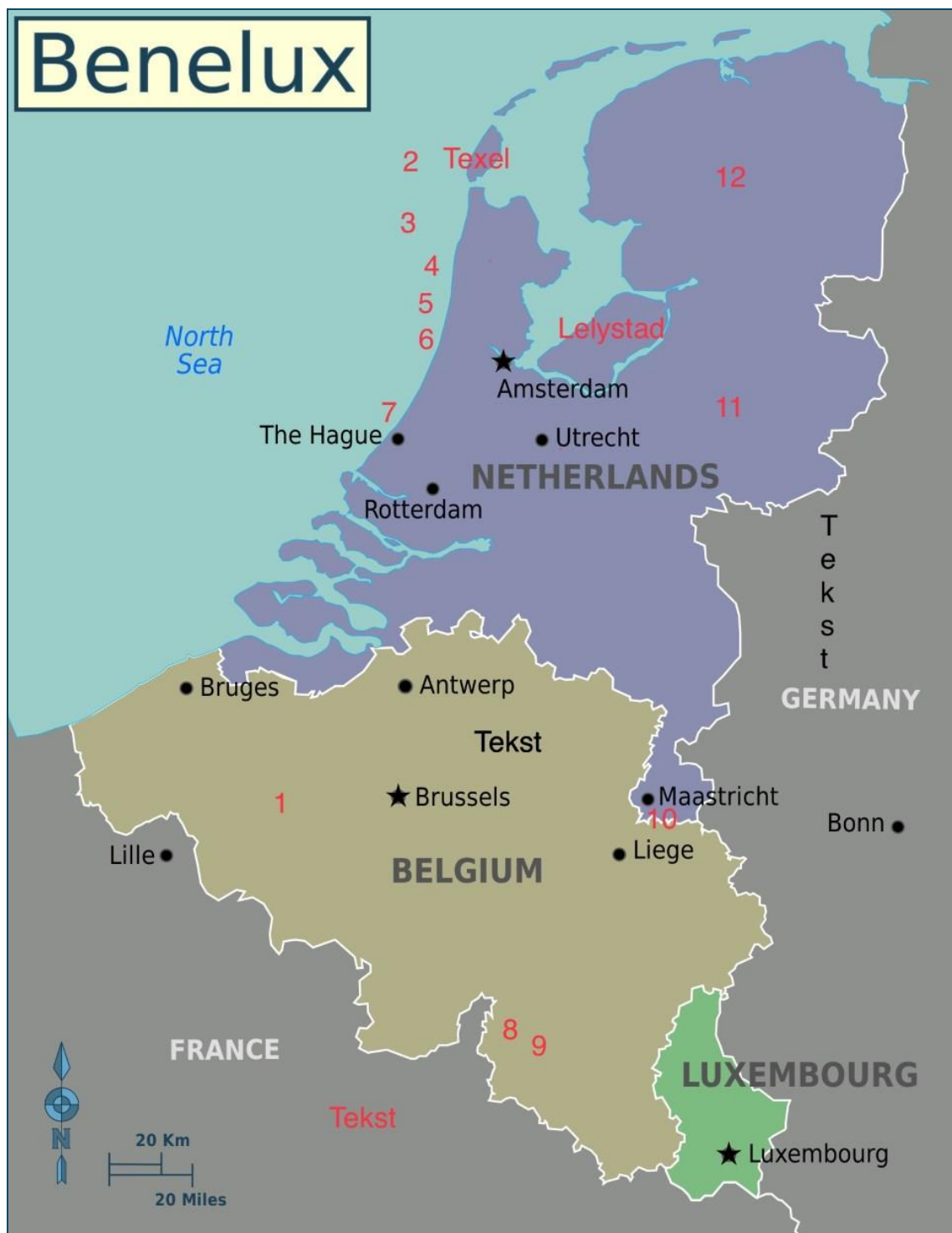
their consideration in making this decision. Of course, nothing is possible for the IRG without the generous contributions of authors and photographers and the volunteers who comprise the team of editor, proofreaders and our wonderful indexer, Ashley Allshire. I am thankful to you all and await further submissions with keen enthusiasm.

---International Rock Gardener---

--- Plants in Habitat ---

Orchids of the Low Countries by Gerrit Eijkelenboom

In this article I describe the orchids in the Netherlands and Belgium, which I have found and photographed over many years. The numbers, which you see on the map, correspond to the numbers in the text.



Map of the Low Countries.

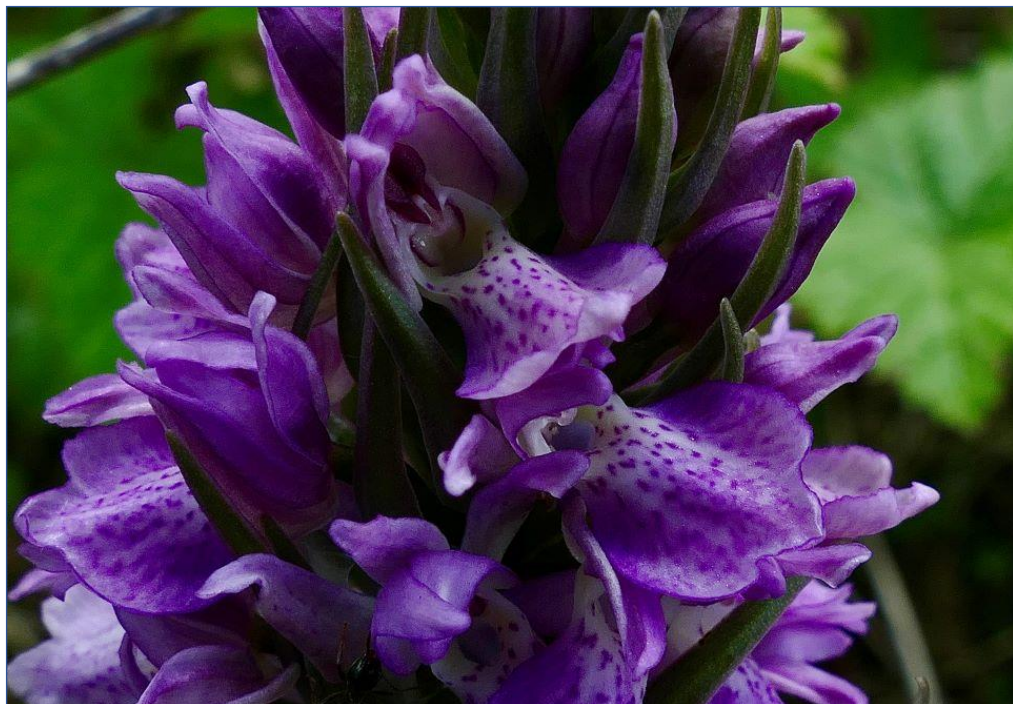
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Dactylorhiza praetermissa is native in the Netherlands and Flanders. Not surprisingly, as it is an orchid that thrives in wet conditions. And water is plentiful in the Low Countries. These countries lie in the delta of the rivers Rhine, Waal, IJssel, Maas and Scheldt. These rivers carry meltwater from the Alps and rainwater from France and the Ardennes to the North Sea. At my garden in Lelystad, this orchid grows in its biotope at the edge of the pond, where moss has formed, an ideal circumstance for the germination of the tiny seeds of orchids. This orchid does not need substrate in the form of clay, peat or sand. Its roots find sufficient nutrients at the bottom of the pond.



Dactylorhiza praetermissa in my garden: photo taken on 22 June.

*Dactylorhiza
praetermissa*



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1. Bossuit-Kortrijk Canal. Moen. (Flanders.)

In Flanders, one finds along the Bossuit-Kortrijk Canal near the town of Moen on the embankment, starting at the Sintpietersbrugje (Saint Peter's Bridge), particularly vigorous specimens of *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and several other species may be found.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa is a stately plant up to 80 cm tall with unstained leaves and cylindrical growth. The markings on the lip consist of numerous dots. The colour is usually purple. The flowering season is June.



Dactylorhiza praetermissa var *junialis* (synonym *Dactylorhiza pardalina*)

There is another species and that is *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* var. *junialis*, which has a series of lines on the lip. The leaves are heavily mottled. The plant usually flowers a little later and is large and vigorous. The flowers are close together. Photo taken 4 June. Both species grow side by side.

A rather rare occurrence is of the hypochrome variant of *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*.



Dactylorhiza praetermissa, hypochrome; photo June 4.

Also growing along this canal on the embankments is *Dactylorhiza incarnata*. This orchid will be discussed later. Anyone visiting this beautiful area should also visit the nearby Orveyt forest. There you will find *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *Ophrys apifera*.

The Dutch and Belgian coast is protected by dunes. These are generally not freely accessible. Understandable, as they are essential for the safety of the underlying land. This has allowed nature to develop well. The height difference of the dunes has allowed many special biotopes to develop, especially because wet places and lakes could develop. These are ideal conditions for the establishment of orchids.

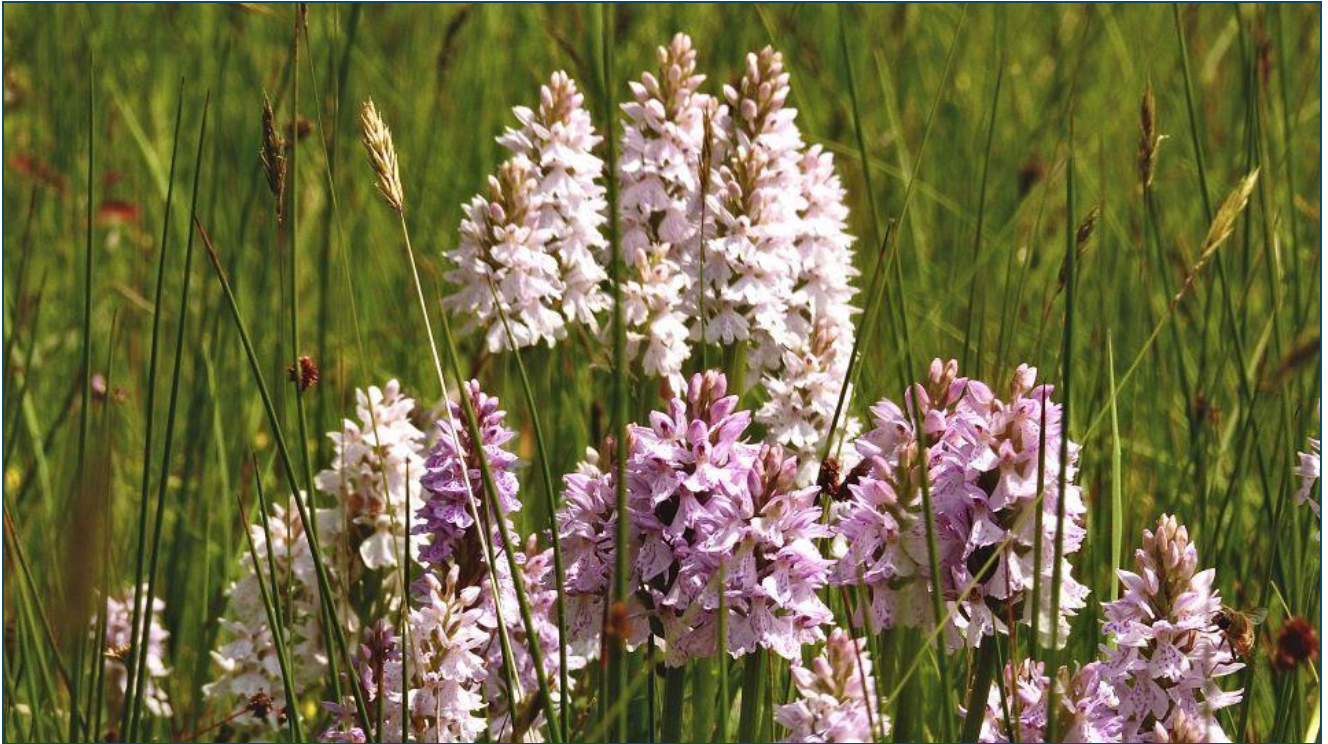
Numbers 2 to 7 are nature reserves in the dunes.

2. Texel (Netherlands)

Texel is the largest island between the North Sea and the Wadden Sea. It is a beautiful area with vast flesh coloured dunes and a lowland plain where several species can be found.

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Dactylorhiza maculata is found in large numbers and completely covers some grasslands. A beautiful sight. They are robust plants up to 60cm tall and densely spotted leaves, as the name suggests. The flower colour is pinkish-white or pink with a pattern of purple lines and dashes on the lip. The lip is almost round with high shoulders.



Dactylorhiza maculate; photo June 2.



Dactylorhiza maculata

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Dactylorhiza majalis is an early flowering species. It is a robust but somewhat stocky plant with a short stem. 20 to 40 cm tall. The leaves are mottled with brown-purple dots. It grows in very moist soil.



Dactylorhiza majalis;
photo May 11.

Orchis morio (synonym *Anacamptis morio*) is becoming a rare sight. Everywhere growing places are disappearing due to the disappearance of nature.

On the island of Texel, for example, 10 years ago masses of *Orchis morio* grew on the dykes along the Wadden Sea. Now sheep graze there. Elsewhere in Europe too, populations are declining due to intensive use of land for agriculture, industry, houses and roads.

This orchid is an early bloomer, as early as the beginning of April. The photos are from 11 May. The plants were then at the end of their flowering. The flower colour is lilac to purple. The middle lobe is whitish with some purple spots. The lateral sepals have green veins.



Orchis morio

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Orchis morio

3. Zwanenwater. (NL) This nature reserve is located in the north of the province of North Holland. It lies in the dunes and there are a number of lakes. It is rich in orchids. The photos are from 15 June.

Platanthera bifolia is easy to recognise, but difficult to distinguish from *Platanthera chlorantha*. In *P. bifolia* the anthers (housings of pollinia) are parallel and close to each other.



Platanthera bifolia

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Platanthera bifolia var *latifolia* The lateral sepals are elongated and slightly raised. Photo June 3.

***Ophrys apifera*:** This originally Mediterranean species has been doing well in the Netherlands in recent years. In Belgium it has been occurring for some time. Apparently, this species is a winner in the climate crisis. But we should be careful with conclusions, because it can also change quickly again. In my hometown, not far from my home several years ago, I discovered a field full of *Ophrys apifera*. I counted 150 specimens. The two dry years 2020 and 2021 put an end to this fairy tale. In 2022 and 2023, there was nothing more to be found. That's how fast it can go.



Ophrys apifera; photo June 15.

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In *Ophrys apifera*, self-pollination (autogamy) is the mode of reproduction. After the flowers open it takes only a few hours for the pollinia to fall onto the stigma, usually blown by the wind. The consequence is, that the species always reproduces true to type, but deformities are more common.

Neottia ovata: The plant has two opposite leaves, encompassing the stem. This is the most visible part of the plant. The stem and inflorescence namely are entirely green, making the plant very difficult to see. The flowers are visited by a multitude of insects due to the rich production of nectar. This species is found throughout Europe.



Neottia ovata; photo June 15.

Dactylorhiza fuchsii, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, *Dactylorhiza incarnata* var. *dunensis*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* var. *junialis*, are the other species which I found there, but are discussed elsewhere.

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4. Schoorl Dunes. (NL)

The dunes of Schoorl form a large nature reserve, many kilometres long and wide. A large part is covered with pine forests, the rest is heathland interspersed with shifting dunes. Growing at the bottom of these pine forests is the orchid *Goodyera repens*, which is rare in the Netherlands.

Goodyera repens; photo July 13: right and below.



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5. Wijk aan Zee dunes (NL).

In the dunes near the village of Wijk aan Zee, the dune variety of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* grows: ***Anacamptis pyramidalis* var. *dunensis***. The flowers are flatter and less pyramidal than *A. pyramidalis*. The stem is slightly curved and is shorter. The flower colour is light pink. Photos taken on July 13.



Anacamptis pyramidalis var. *dunensis*



Anacamptis pyramidalis

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6. Kennemerstrand IJmuiden. (NL)

A large nature reserve, between dunes and sea, with unusual vegetation. The soil is always soaking wet by water accumulation, seepage.

Liparis loeselii is a pioneer species for young dune areas and wet dune valleys. If the overgrowth of other species becomes too high, this species immediately disappears.

The species has a wide range in Eurasia and North America but is extremely rare.



Liparis loeselii; photo 15 June: right and below.



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Herminium monorchis grows in close proximity to the previous species. It can form large tussocks, as dispersal is by subterranean rhizomes. Its distribution is over the area from Eurasia to Japan.

Herminium monorchis: left and below.



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Epipactis palustris is found in large numbers in the area of Kennemerstrand. The plant spreads vegetatively by rhizomes, and by seeds. This plant is rare because it grows in a specific habitat, where it is always wet.



Epipactis palustris

Due to global warming, orchids from southern countries are becoming more northern occur. For many years, the border between Belgium and the Netherlands was also the border between the originally Mediterranean orchids and orchids from the temperate zone. The following species, of Mediterranean origin, have now more or less established themselves in the Netherlands.

- *Anacamptis pyramidalis* can be found in the dunes in many places with many specimens. It even turned up in my hometown, but also quickly disappeared again.

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- *Ophrys apifera* has been on the rise in the Netherlands for years, establishing itself in more and more places.
- *Himantoglossum hircinum* occurred sporadically in the Netherlands and Belgium in the past and is now found at two sites in IJmuiden.
- The last southern species is *Himantoglossum robertianum*. Known to be growing in a site in Belgium and now it has turned up in the dunes near Noordwijk, 28 km south of IJmuiden.

Himantoglossum hircinum: Not on the Kennemer beach, but along a cycle path in IJmuiden, this giant orchid has recently appeared in two different places. This was not for the first time in the Netherlands. In 2020, 28 plants bloomed in Zeeland. In 2021 these were destroyed because a contractor had laid a road over them.



Himantoglossum hircinum



Himantoglossum robertianum (also known as *Barlia robertianum*) turned up 28km south in the dunes of Noordwijk in 2020. In southern Europe this wonderful orchid also blooms at the same time, mid-March.

DSC02895 *Himantoglossum robertianum*. Photo 16 March by Jos Lammers.

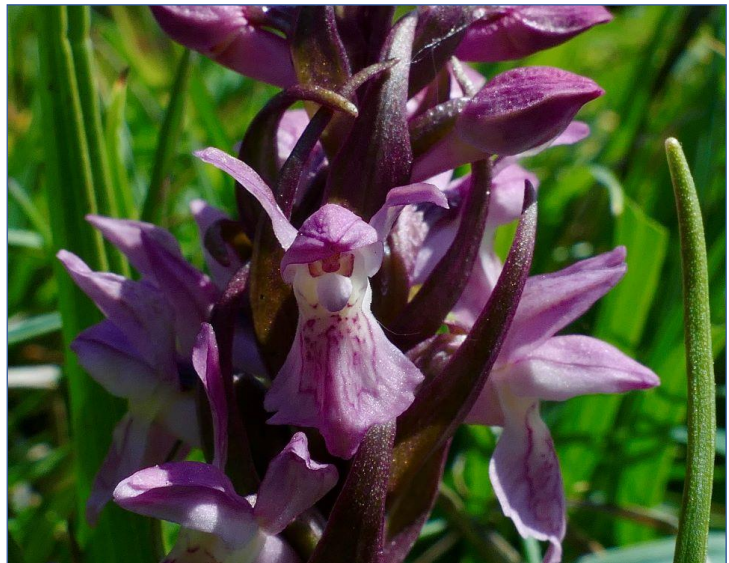
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7. Meijendel (NL) Pictures 24 May

The nature reserve of Meijendel is located just north of The Hague. It is a dune area, with many hills and valleys. There is often water in these valleys. On the transition from dry to wet grow the most beautiful plants and unusual orchids. Paths run through the area and in some you can freely enter the area to see and photograph the orchids up close.

Dactylorhiza incarnata* var. *dunensis, also called *Dactylorhiza incarnata* var. *lobelia*, is a sturdy and short plant with a thick stem. The base of the inflorescence almost touches the ground. The unspotted leaves are broad and long. The flower colour is pink (some call it flesh-coloured).

Dactylorhiza incarnata var. *dunensis*:
right and below.



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Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. *coccinea* is a new species, brought over about 5 years ago from southern England to Zeeland and is making inroads northwards. The plant resembles the var. *dunensis*, but it is brick-red in colour.



Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. *coccinea*



8. Viroinval (Wallonia).

In Wallonia, the French-speaking part of Belgium, it runs a 130km-long narrow strip called the Calestienne. It consists of limestone rocks. Erosion has created many holes and caves there. For example, in Han, with its beautiful caves. The soil consists of poor limestone soils, which are very suitable for the development of many types of orchids: this type is called lime grasslands.

***Ophrys fuciflora* (*Ophrys holoserica*)**



This species is one of the absolute top European orchids. It grows on a slope in the municipality of Viroinval. This slope is freely accessible to visitors, but the question is: for how much longer? There are large numbers of this species. I estimate between 100 and 200 specimens. The first time I visited there was almost nothing to see. It had been a dry spring and the orchids remained underground. A year later, conditions were very favourable and I fully enjoyed the unique spectacle offered by *Ophrys fuciflora*.

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This species is extremely variable. No two individuals are the same. In France, where this species also occurs, this leads to identification problems. There you have species resembling *fuciflora*. Not so here in Wallonia.

The most important velvety, reddish-protuberances complicated with many branches and Photos 4 June.

Ophrys fuciflora



feature is the trapezoid shape of the lip, brown to blackish-purple with distinct (swellings). The speculum is often an ocellus (eye) in the middle.



Ophrys fuciflora



Ophrys fuciflora

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Platanthera chlorantha. They are substantial plants, up to 80 cm tall. The lateral sepals are widely apart, the middle sepals forming a helmet with the two petals. The lip is long and narrow. A characteristic feature of this species is that the anthers (housings or pollinia) diverge, standing wide apart. In *P. bifolia* they are parallel vertical. 4 June



Platanthera chlorantha



Platanthera chlorantha

Orchis anthropophora. This very well-known species also grows on the same slope as the species above. The male-shaped lip protrudes from under a large helmet. The colour of the lip varies from yellow to red.

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Orchis anthropophora; photo 4 June.

Ophrys insectifera. The plant can grow up to 80cm tall, but the flowers themselves are very small. The elongated lip has two lateral lobes, widely spaced. The middle lobe is deeply incised along the bottom. The speculum is quadrangular or shield-shaped. The colour is bluish grey.



Ophrys insectifera; photo 4 June



Ophrys insectifera

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Coeloglossum viride is an almost entirely green species. The cleft lip can sometimes be a little red or yellow. This species is found throughout the northern hemisphere but is rare. It is hard to find among the green of the vegetation. Very often the little plants are no higher than 10 cm.



Coeloglossum viride; photo 4 June.

Himantoglossum hircinum It is a plant with giant inflorescence, up to 1 metre tall.

The number of individual flowers can be 80. The lip of the flower spreads almost horizontally and rotate like a corkscrew. These plants are mainly found in southern Europe, but the spread is increasingly coming north.



Himantoglossum hircinum; photo June 3.

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Himantoglossum hircinum

Neotinea ustulata It is a rather small plant, although some specimens can reach 60 cm grow. The inflorescence consists of numerous small flowers, the lip of which is three-lobed. The colour is white with some purple spots. The top of the inflorescence spike is dark purple in colour, making it look as if the flower has been burnt there. Occurs in northern Eurasia, but not in the Netherlands.



*Neotinea
ustulata*;
photo
4 June.

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Neottia nidus-avis. In a dark grove, we found this plant. It was almost finished flowering. It stood in a dense layer of humus and received almost no sunlight. These are the conditions under which this species grows. It is a saprophyte, which means that it gets its food from a dense layer of dead leaves and propagates vegetatively via thick rhizomes. Under lighter conditions, the flowers can be pollinated by flies.

It is not, therefore, a parasite. That seems plausible here, because the plant has hardly any green leaves.



Neottia nidus-avis; photo 3 June.

The following species also grew there in Viroinval:

Ophrys apifera, *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and *Gymnadenia conopsea*.

9. Lavaux-Sainte-Anne (Wallonia)

Just outside this picturesque village with its beautiful castle is an orchid meadow, maintained by volunteers.

Orchis purpurea. They are robust plants that can reach 90 cm high. From the large basal rosette, springs a long flower stem, purple in colour. The flowers have the shape of a male with purple dots and spots.

Orchis purpurea: photo 6 June.



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Orchis purpurea

Orchis simia (Monkey orchid) It is a plant with a height of 20 to 40 cm. The inflorescence is densely flowering and the flowers bloom from top to bottom. Petals and sepals form a helmet (hood) with small purple dots, especially on the inside. The lip protrudes and is three lobed. The tip of the lobes is darker and strongly curled forward and protrudes in all directions. See below.



Orchis simia

Orchis simia* x *Orchis purpurea

Two species, close together, can easily hybridise. We see in the picture a species, which looks very similar to *Ophrys simia*, but it is not. You can tell it is a hybrid by the straight rows of flowers, neatly arranged. In the real *Ophrys simia*, the flowers point in all directions, just as real monkeys can do!

Ophrys simia x *Ophrys purpurea*.



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Cephalanthera damasonium: We found this beautiful orchid in a gloomy forest.

I can't say much about it, except that it does resemble *Cephalanthera longifolia*, which also occurs in Belgium, but which we did not find. The leaves of *longifolia* emerge from one spot of the rosette and stick up at an angle. The foliage of *damasonium* is alternately attached to the stem. The flower of the latter is slightly less white.



Cephalanthera damasonium;
photo 6 June.



Cephalanthera damasonium

We also found the following species there: *Ophrys fuciflora*, *Ophrys insectifera*, *Ophrys apifera*.

10 South Limburg (NL)

South Limburg is the richest orchid area in the Netherlands. So we would think, we should visit right away. But that could then turn out to be a disappointment. Most orchid growing places are not accessible. Forbidden access, in other words. You will then have to restrict yourself to walking in this beautiful hill country.

However, there is an alternative: in the Gerendal lies the so-called orchid garden. When you hear these words you should know it is not a landscaped garden, it is a small nature reserve that is maintained and guarded. You have free access there, but you must confine yourself to the narrow paths that run over and along the slope. This 'garden' has existed for decades. No orchids are planted; nature is allowed to take its course.

The slope is grazed only after flowering by special [Mergelland sheep](#). Many of my photos were taken there.

Orchis militaris. Robust plants, up to 60 cm tall. The inflorescence is cylindrical. The sepals and petals form a helmet (hood), which is white or pale lilac-grey. From a distance, this is the most obvious feature. The helmet contrasts with the lip, which is pink with a white central lobe. On it are a number of reddish-pink spots. The lip has the shape of a male.



Orchis militaris; photo 18 May



Orchis militaris

***Coeloglossum viride* red form.**

Earlier in this article, I wrote about this orchid in Wallonia, Viroinval. The colour of the lip was green-yellow. Here in southern Limburg, I found specimens with a red lip.



Coeloglossum viride, red form; photo 18 May

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Gymnadenia conopsea. Strong plants up to 100cm, with a long cylindrical inflorescence. There can be up to 80 flowers on a stem. Flower colour is intense purple-pink, sometimes pale pink or white.



Gymnadenia conopsea; photos 4 June.



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***Orchis mascula*.**

In a forest near the village of Bemelen, we found a few specimens of *Orchis mascula*. It is



a plant up to 60cm tall with a reddish-brown stem. The leaves of the rosette are shiny green with reddish spots. The inflorescence is rather densely flowering. The flowers are red to purplish-red with a number of red dots on the central lobe. The flower has a thick spur. It is an early species, and the specimens we found were therefore nearly finished flowering.

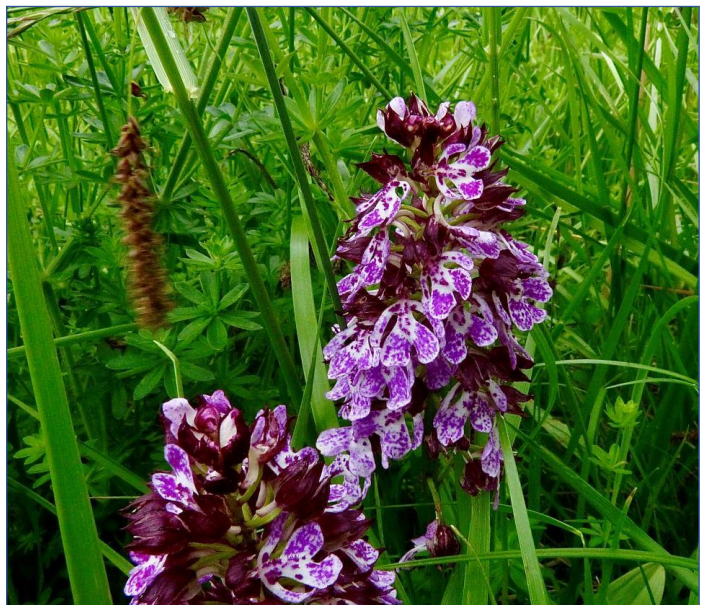
Orchis mascula; photo 20 May, left and below.



Orchis militaris x Orchis purpurea

Orchis militaris has enthusiastically shared its gene pool with the other species of the genus *Orchis* in this area. The result is a number of hybrids with *Orchis militaris* as a parent.

Orchis militaris x Orchis purpurea



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Orchis militaris* x *Orchis anthropophorum

Orchis militaris x *Ophrys*
anthropophorum.



Orchis militaris* x *Orchis simia

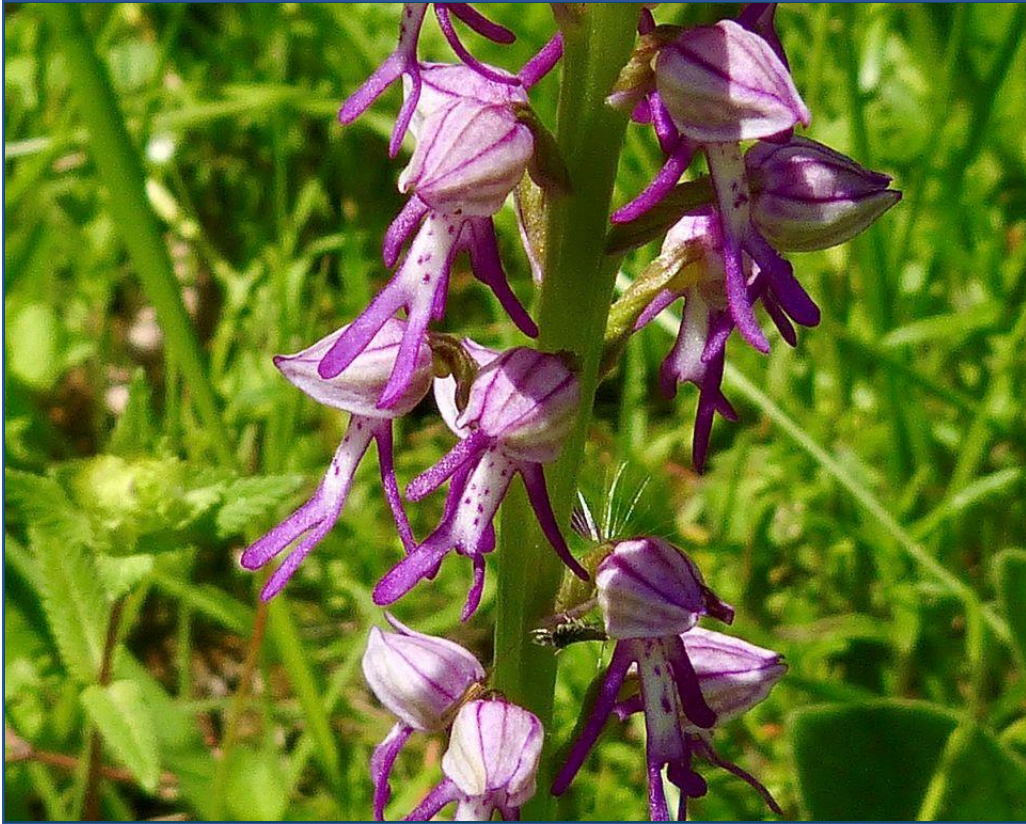
Orchis militaris x *Orchis*
simia.



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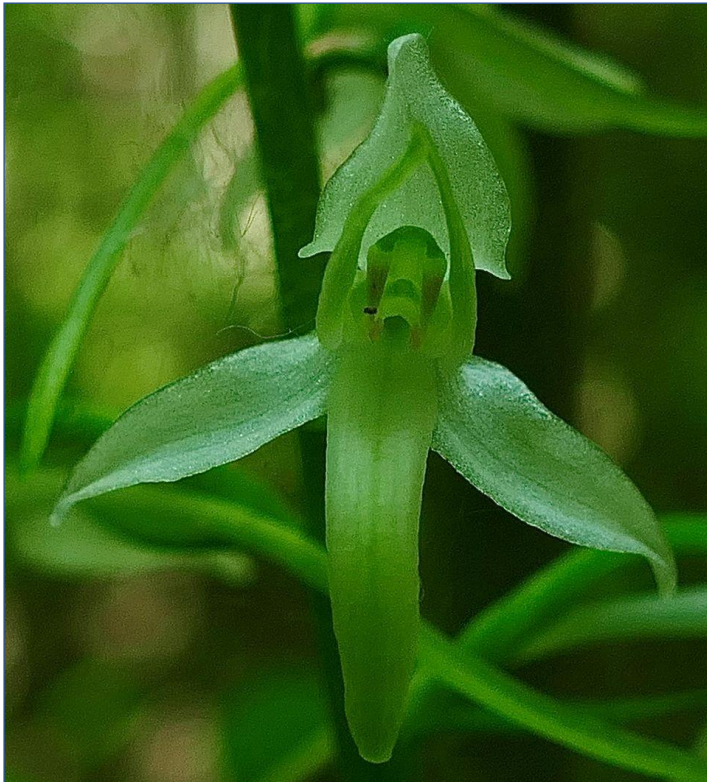
Orchis simia x Orchis anthropophorum.

A special feature of this hybrid is the absence of the male appendage.



Orchis simia x Orchis anthropophorum

Platanthera x hybrida



This hybrid forms the middle ground between *P. chlorantha* and *P. bifolia*. The position of the anthers is decisive then. They are parallel, but not as close together.

It seems that this hybrid is now the defining species in southern Limburg.

Platanthera x hybrida; photo 2 June.

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These are the other species, which we found in this area but these are described in another place in the article: *Neottia ovata*, *Ophrys insectifera*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Orchis simia*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Orchis purpurea*, *Orchis anthropophora*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*,

11. Het Vossenbroek, Emst, (NL)

The word 'broek' means wet, or under water. The Vossenbroek nature reserve is an area that regularly floods. It is therefore a nice biotope for orchids.

Dactylorhiza incarnata. (With the colour of flesh) The leaves are unstained. The longest one comes halfway up the inflorescence, wrapped around the stem and keeled at the tip. The edges of the lip are pinched together and fold backwards, as can be clearly seen in the detail. Photo taken on 2 June.



Dactylorhiza incarnata

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Dactylorhiza incarnata



An unusual specimen of *Dactylorhiza praetermisssa* attracted attention, rarely seen.

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Dactylorhiza fuchsii. This orchid is tall and slender up to 70 cm high. The leaves are mottled. At the beginning of flowering, the inflorescence is conical, later cylindrical. The flower colour is white to dark lilac. The central lobe is longer than the lateral lobes, with deep incisions between central lobe and side lobes. See detail, photos 2 June.



Dactylorhiza fuchsii



Dactylorhiza fuchsii



Dactylorhiza fuchsii.

Also seen in this area *Dactylorhiza majalis*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* var. *junialis*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*.

12. Holtingerveld (NL)

This nature reserve is located in the province of Drenthe, in the eastern part of the country. There I searched for ***Dactylorhiza ericetorum***, the Heather orchid. This is a rare species in the Netherlands, because the conditions it needs of permanently moist sandy soil are not common.

There must be seepage water available. In Scotland, however, this species is common.

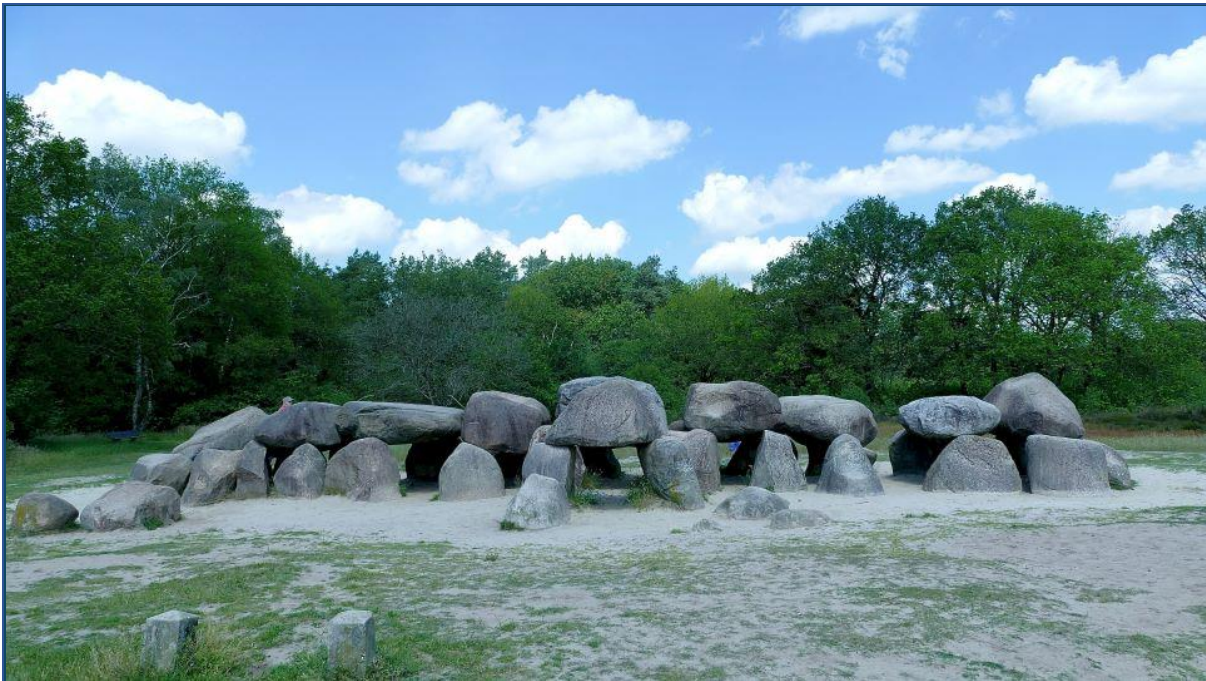
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The leaves are lightly mottled. The stem is relatively long. The flowering spike is short, but rather densely flowering. The flowers are relatively large. The incisions between the lobes are short.

Dactylorhiza ericetorum

A 'Hunebed' (dolmen) can be found in the nature reserve. It is a prehistoric burial monument, five to six thousand years old. Many can be found in the province of Drenthe.



Hunebed (dolmen)

Books:

Hans Dekker, Orchids in the Northern Netherlands

CAJ Kreutz, Orchids of the Benelux. Vol 1 & 2

Website: [Welcome to the Orchids of Britain and Europe](#)

Pictures by the author Gerrit Eijkelenboom. Except *Himantoglossum robertianum* by Jos Lammers.

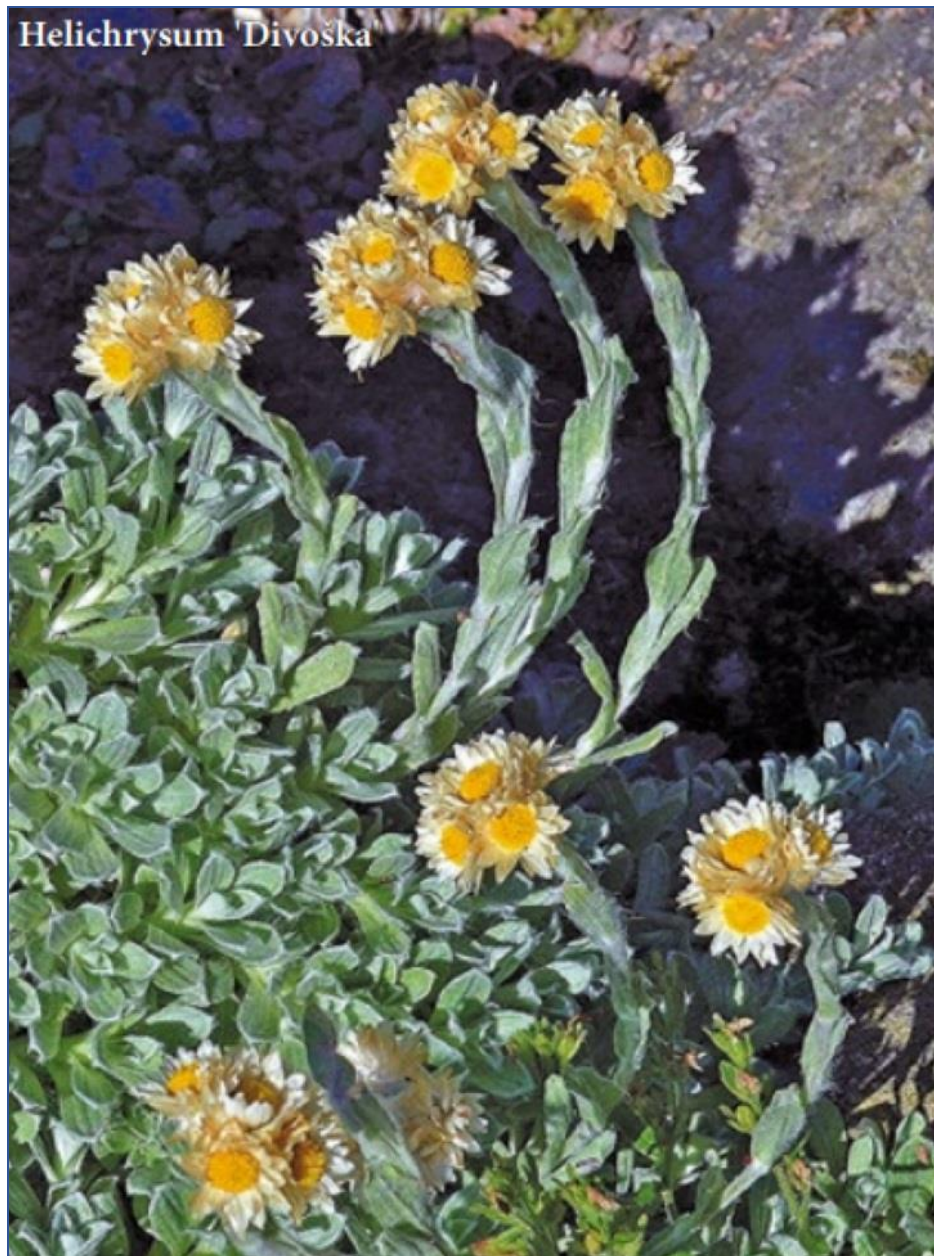
---International Rock Gardener---

--- Plant Portrait ---

WILD STRAWFLOWER - *Helichrysum* 'Divoška' : Zdeněk Řeháček text and photo

Sometimes things happen to me that I can't stop wondering about. About three years ago, I took some cuttings of *Helichrysum milfordiae* and let them take root. But I don't remember where I got them from. I have *H. milfordiae* in three places in the garden and I still have no idea where the propagation material came from.

The cuttings took root quickly, so I transplanted them into the white pots that I use exclusively for propagated plants because I don't like the square black ones. Mine are a type used commercially, but I buy them direct from the manufacturer and order them unprinted, pure white.



Helichrysum 'Divoška'

---International Rock Gardener---

Well, I'm getting a little sidetracked again. It's not about the pots, it's the cuttings. They started growing, forming more rosettes, and I was amazed at how pretty they were. They seemed a little whiter and plumper than *H. milfordiae*, but still I didn't think that anything was amiss. I planted one plant in an acidic rock garden in full sun, and even sold a few as *Helichrysum milfordiae*. My apologies to those affected who took them away that day. In the end I only realised it wasn't *H. milfordiae* when I noticed how quickly the plant planted in the rock garden began to grow. Four months into the first year it produced a low carpet about two centimetres high and about ten centimetres across. In the next two years, I was able to keep it in check just by pruning it several times around the perimeter and in July 2021, it showed one flower. And a year later it was flowering better than the picture shows. Her blooms were quite pretty, so I took her up on her mercy and started calling her 'Divoška' ("the Wild One"). It forms a dense and completely low carpet of many leaf rosettes which are about 2 cm across, silky, felted and light grey. Flowers on about 8-10 cm tall stems with adpressed leaves are in crowded several-flowered stipules with deep yellow targets and short, pale yellow rays. It is probably a hybrid or form.

Helichrysum plicatum which also spreads, though less, forms a thinner carpet of slightly larger similarly felted rosettes and has similarly tall stems with flowers but not at all rays, only yellow targets and more of them on the stem. If that wildflower was involved in the creation of my *Helichrysum* 'Divoška' I dare not say. It is just a mystery.

But the biggest mystery is where I was back then when I took those few cuttings, and how I thought they were *H. milfordiae*. Because there's nothing else in the garden like them.



Helichrysum plicatum

---International Rock Gardener---

--- Another Asteraceae ---

STRAWFLOWER FROM THE DRAGON MOUNTAINS

Text: Zdeněk Zvolanek photo: Zdeněk Hlavoň

The Dragon Mountains mentioned here are the South African Drakensberg; this strawflower grown by Z. Hlavoň in Syrovice (in the South Moravian Region of the Czech Republic) has the correctly recognized name *Helichrysum sessilioides*. It belongs to the category of breathtakingly photogenic rock plant, because the more the flowers are inflated and symmetrically rounded, the more on we roll our eyes at them in admiration. It grows in nature on rock crags from heights 2000– 3200 metres above sea level where it loves the cracks and fissures of volcanic basalt and dolerite rocks. Many cushions, shiny white in appearance with diameters from 5-100 cm, sit there in the mountains, between clouds on flat rock slabs.

An old invalid name is *Helichrysum aretioides* and the name *Helichrysum sessile* belongs to a strawflower from lower elevations (2300 m above sea level) with thick white indumentum on the small leaves (up to 40 mm long), forming shrubs up to 10 cm tall with flower clusters (flowers) 8 mm long. ***H. sessilioides*** has linear to narrowly lanceolate leaves only 5-15 mm long, with 10 to 15 mm long branches. The seed is probably not easily found, it is an ellipsoid achene about 2 mm long with a fluffy testa.



Helichrysum sessilioides