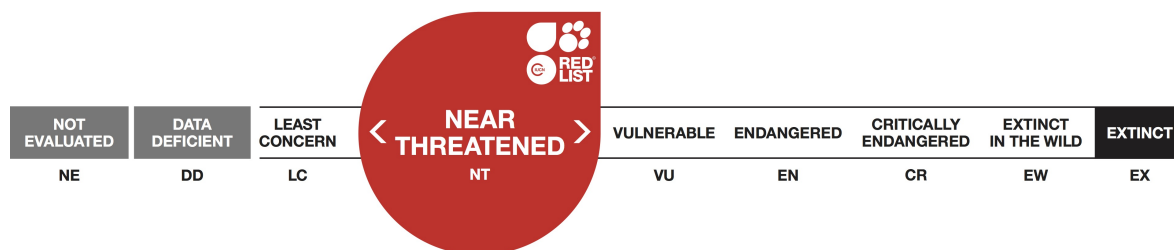


Orchis laeta, Orchis plaisant

Assessment by: Véla, E., de Bélair, G., Rebbas, K. & Lansdown, R.V.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Véla, E., de Bélair, G., Rebbas, K. & Lansdown, R.V. 2018. *Orchis laeta*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: e.T13164185A18613620. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-2.RLTS.T13164185A18613620.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Asparagales	Orchidaceae

Taxon Name: *Orchis laeta* Steinh.

Synonym(s):

- *Androrchis blidana* (B.Baumann & H.Baumann) W.Foelsche & Jakely
- *Androrchis laeta* (Steinh.) D.Tyteca & E.Klein
- *Orchis blidana* B.Baumann & H.Baumann
- *Orchis pauciflora* Ten. subsp. *laeta* (Steinh.) Kreutz

Common Name(s):

- French: Orchis plaisant

Taxonomic Source(s):

Board of Trustees, RBG Kew. 2018. Plants of the World Online Portal. Richmond, UK Available at: <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org>.

Taxonomic Notes:

According to Martin *et al.* (2015), *Orchis laeta* is considered here including coloured forms sometimes called *Orchis x blidana* as hypothetical hybrid swarms *O. laeta* x *O. olbiensis*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: March 19, 2016

Justification:

This orchid is endemic to the Mediterranean region in Algeria and Tunisia, where it is relatively widely distributed. The limited population information available shows that some sites host only a few mature individuals and the total population size is suspected to be less than 10,000 mature individuals, with none of the estimated subpopulations inferred to hold more than 1,000 mature individuals; only one subpopulation in Algeria might hold close to 1,000 mature individuals. However, there is no documented information about estimated and projected declines. This orchid is thus assessed as Near Threatened (NT C2a(i)) because of the small population size and the estimated number of mature individuals in each subpopulation, however, no data is available to support an observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline. Therefore more information on population trends and threats is needed to confirm an assessment on a higher category of threat.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

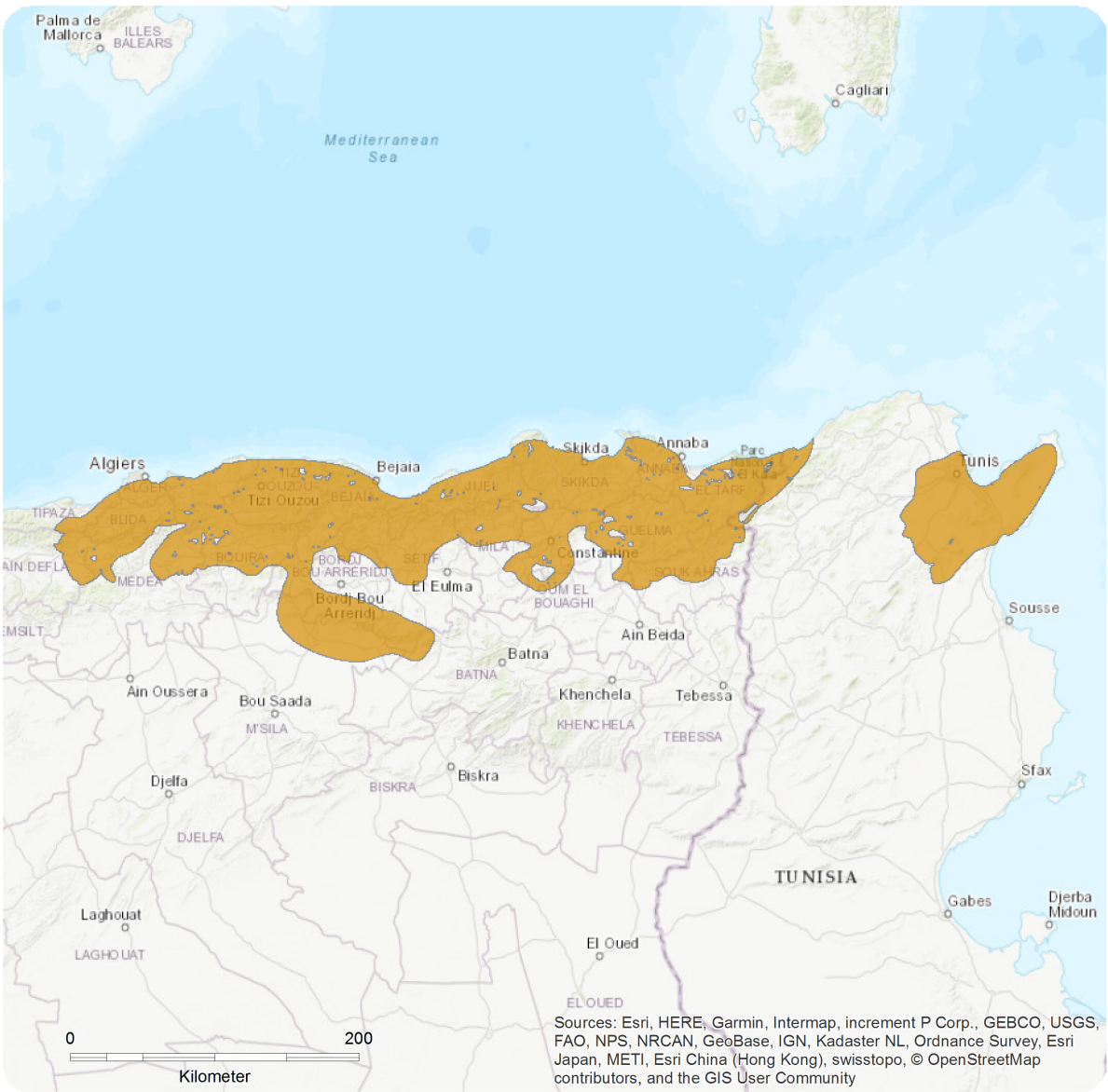
This Mediterranean orchid is restricted to Algeria and Tunisia. It has been recorded from the Akfadou area between the two countries (Yahi *et al.* 2012). In Algeria, it is known from Djebel Ouahch (de Bélair *et al.* 2005), Djebel Oum Settas, Wilaya de Constantine (de Bélair et Véla pers. comm. 2016), Souk Ahras, in the région of Akfadou, the mountains of d'Ait Zikki and Djurdjura, the mountains of Maadid, Djebel Boutaleb in the region of Médea (Rebbas pers. comm. 2016) and Djebel Megriss in the région of Setif (Rebbas pers. comm. 2016, Rebbas 2016). In Tunisia, it has been recorded in the sectors of Jebel Ressas, Jebel Zaghouan and Krib (Martin *et al.* 2015). It was described in Annaba, Algeria (Maire 1955).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Algeria; Tunisia

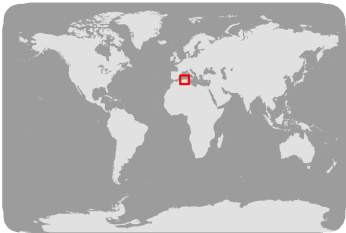
Distribution Map

Orchis laeta



Range
■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
IUCN



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

This taxon is abundant in several Algerian sites, such as Djebel Ouahch (200-300 mature individuals), Akfadou (more than 100 mature individuals) with some diversity of floral colours within the same subpopulation. Very few individuals are present in the other sites (around 20 individuals per site). In Tunisia, less than 100 individuals have been recorded in total (R. Martin unpublished data).

At global level, the population size is suspected to be less than 10,000 individuals based on the certainly more than 1,000 mature individuals recorded in Algeria and the lack of precise data due to the fact that not all the known sites have been visited (de Bélair and Rebbas pers. comm. 2016); less than 100 mature individuals are known from Tunisia (Martin *et al.* 2015). None of the subpopulations is suspected to hold more than 1,000 individuals.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This orchid grows in open woodland and montane pasture in areas of high rainfall (Maire 1955). It has been recorded from grassland on maquis scrubland in Djebel Ouahch, cedar forests in Ouanougha, M'Sila Department, and rock boulders in Ait Zikki (de Bélair pers. comm. 2016). It is found on full light to half-shade heathland with light undergrowth, growing on limestone or siliceous soils; it flowers from mid-March to mid-April (Martin *et al.* 2015).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

There is no evidence that this species is used.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Trampling by cattle and also by humans (hiking) has been observed on several sites however the species does not seem to be affected by this. Subpopulations on rocky habitats are inaccessible by people or livestock and therefore considered to be protected (Rebbas pers comm 2016). Other areas, such as Jebel Ouahch, are difficult to access because they are considered unsafe (G. de Bélair pers. comm. 2016).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is protected in Algeria (Yahi *et al.* 2012). It is found in the protected areas of Djurdjura National Park, Jijel National Park and Boukornine National Park, in Tunisia (IUCN and UNEP-WCMC 2018). It is included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Annex B of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (CITES 2018). No additional conservation measures are in place. There is a need for further research on its distribution, population, ecology and threats.

Credits

Assessor(s): Véla, E., de Bélair, G., Rebbas, K. & Lansdown, R.V.

Reviewer(s): García, N. & Numa, C.

Contributor(s): Alcázar Montañez, E.

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.2. Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
6. Human intrusions & disturbance -> 6.1. Recreational activities	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 54300
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 800
Population
Number of mature individuals: 9999
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations: Unknown
Population severely fragmented: No
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

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