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Himantoglossum hircinum

[Synonyms : *Aceras hircina*, *Loroglossum hircinum*, *Orchis hircina*, *Satyrium hircinum*]

LIZARD ORCHID is a tuberous orchid. Native to North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean coast, it has spurred, purple-lined and dotted, pale green flowers with purple-red spotted, white lips, elongated into a bedraggled, anti-clockwise spiralling ribbons or streamers.

It is also known as *Bocks-Riemenzunge* (German), *Bokkenorchis* (Dutch), *Orchis bouc* (French), *Jazyček kozlí* (Czech), and *Jazyčkovec kozí* (Czech).

The flowers have an unpleasant goat-like or fur-like smell (especially when wet) and are pollinated by beetles and other insects.

In Britain lizard orchid is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as it is considered to be endangered in the wild.

Hircinum is Latin (of a he-goat) meaning 'goat-like or smelling of goat'.