

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

### *Orchis laxiflora*

[Synonyms : *Anacamptis laxiflora*, *Orchis ensifolia*, *Orchis laxiflora* subsp. *ensifolia*, *Orchis tabernaemontanii*]

**LOOSE-FLOWERED ORCHID** is an orchid. Native to Britain and the Channel Islands, and from Belgium south to the Mediterranean, it has pink, lilac or red flowers with a wavy-edged lip and a long spur.

It is also known as known as Jersey orchid, Lax-flowered orchid, Loose-flowered red orchid, *Lockerblütiges Knabenkraut* (German), Marsh orchis, *Orcheoidhi* (Greek), *Orchis à fleurs lâches* (French), *Pennecoûte* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Pentecôtes* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Salap misri* (Bengali, Hindi), *Ule moerasorchis* (Dutch), and *Vstavač řídkokvětý* (French).

*Laxiflora* is derived from Latin *laxus* (loose, slack) and *-flora* (flowered) components meaning 'loose-flowered or unevenly spaced flowers'.

The bulb was once used to make salep (the sustaining drink that could be bought from the London street sellers) and when ground it was also added to bread flour.

Medicinally, in the late 1960s loose-flowered orchid attracted the attention of European medical researchers as a possible source of an acid believed of value in countering cancer.