

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 militaris

[Synonyms : *Orchis cinerea*, *Orchis galeata*, *Orchis mimusops*, *Orchis rivinii*, *Strateuma militaris*]

SOLDIER ORCHID is an orchid. Native to Europe (including Britain), and the Mediterranean, it has purple-veined, white to pink flowers with a red-spotted, white to dark purple lip and a short spur.

It is also known as *Giglio-crestato* (Italian), *Helm-Knabenkraut* (German), *Johannesnøklar* (Norwegian), *Johannesnyckel* (Swedish), *Johannes nyckelblomster* (Swedish), *Johannesnycklar* (Swedish), Military orchid, Military orchis, *Orchis militaire* (French), *Riddaryxne* (Swedish), *Ridder-Gøgeurt* (Danish), *Soikkokämmekä* (Finnish), *Soldaatje* (Dutch), and *Vstavač vojenský* (Czech, Slovak).

The flowers are pollinated by bees and butterflies.

It is a protected plant in Britain under Schedule 2 of Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975, and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is a protected plant in Finland too.

Militaris is Latin (of soldiers, of war, military).

Like so many orchid bulbs those of soldier orchid used to be ground for bread flour or made into the nutritious salep drink.