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Orchis simia

[Synonyms : *Orchis macra*, *Orchis tephrosanthos*, *Orchis zoophora*]

MONKEY ORCHID is an orchid. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has often red-streaked or spotted, pink to red flowers with a purple-dotted, white to pink lip and a short spur.

It is also known as *Aapjesorchis* (Dutch), *Affen-Knabenkraut* (German), Lady orchid, *Orchis singe* (French), and *Vstavač opička* (Czech).

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.

Simia is Latin (monkey) with reference to the alleged appearance of the flower.

The name monkey orchid emerged because many are said to have seen the flower's resemblance to a monkey – the rounded hood forming the head and the strap-shaped lobes representing arms and legs.