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Platanthera bifolia

[Synonyms : *Gymnadenia bifolia*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *Orchis alba*, *Orchis bifolia*, *Platanthera brachyglossa*, *Platanthera solstitialis*, *Satyrium bifolium*]

LESSER BUTTERFLY ORCHID is a perennial orchid. Native to northern temperate regions (including Britain) to the Mediterranean, it has small, pungently fragrant, green-tinged, white flowers each with a long thread-like, greenish spur.

It is also known as *Bakke-gøgelilje* (Danish), *Lyubka dvulistnaya* (Russian), *Nattfiol* (Norwegian), *Nattviol* (Swedish), *Nattyxne* (Swedish), Night violet, *Nochnaya fialka* (Russian), *Orchis à deux feuilles* (French), *Platanthère à deux feuilles* (French), *Tegeirian Llydanwyrdd Bach* (Welsh), *Valkolehdokki* (Finnish), *Vemeník dvoulistý* (Czech), *Weisse Waldhyazinthe* (German), *Welriekender nachtorchis* (Dutch), *Zweiblättrige Breitkölbchen* (German), and *Zweiblättrige Waldhyazinthe* (German).

The flowers are especially pungent at night and are pollinated by butterflies and long-tongued night hawk-moths that can reach into the long narrow spur for the nectar.

This is a protected species in Finland.

Bifolia is derived from Latin *bi-* (two) and *-folia* (leaved) components.