

Platanthera bifolia

[Synonyms : *Conopsidium platantherum*, *Conopsidium stenanthrum*, *Gymnadenia bifolia*, *Gymnadenia bifolia* var. *tenuiflora*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *Habenaria fornicata*, *Lysias bifolia*, *Orchis alba*, *Orchis bifolia*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *brachyglossa*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *latissima*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *major*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *trifolia*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *trifoliata*, *Orchis bifolia* var. *virens*, *Orchis ochroleuca*, *Orchis paucifolia*, *Orchis platanthera*, *Orchis stenanthra*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *angustifolia*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *apetiolata*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *atropatanica*, *Platanthera bifolia* subsp. *bifolia*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *brachyglossa*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *brachyphylla*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *bracteata*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *brevicalcarata*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *carducciana*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *conferta*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *densiflora*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *densispicata*, *Platanthera bifolia* subsp. *graciliflora*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *grandiflora*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *humilior*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *latiflora*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *laxa*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *major*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *microglossa*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *multifoliolata*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *nudicaulis*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *obtusifolia*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *pervia*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *quadrifolia*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *rotundata*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *simonkaiana*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *spathulata*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *subalpina*, *Platanthera bifolia* var. *tenuiflora*, *Platanthera bifolia* forma *trifoliata*, *Platanthera brachyglossa*, *Platanthera carducciana*, *Platanthera chlorantha* forma *lancifolia*, *Platanthera chlorantha* var. *wankelii*, *Platanthera lancifolia*, *Platanthera major*, *Platanthera montana* var. *lancifolia*, *Platanthera pervia*, *Platanthera satyrioides*, *Platanthera schuriana*, *Platanthera solstitialis*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *brachyglossa*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *densiflora*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *latiflora*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *patula*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *pervia*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *subalpina*, *Platanthera solstitialis* var. *trifoliata*, *Platanthera subalpina*, *Platanthera virescens*, *Platanthera viricimaculata*, *Platanthera wankelii*, *Satyrium bifolium*, *Sieberia bifolia*]

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 dvoulístý* (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.