

# Burnt orchid

*Neotinea ustulata* (L.) R.M.Bateman & al.

## DESCRIPTION

The inflorescence of this small orchid is composed of up to 15-50(70) flowers. Each of them has a three-lobed lip with crimson red spots, while the sepals and petals are red-brown. The specific epithet *ustulata* means “slightly burned”, which refers to the dark appearance of the flower spike.

## HABITAT

Grasslands, fens, mountain meadows, valleys and wet grasslands throughout central and south Europe.

## DISTRIBUTION

Central and southern Europe, reaching southern Sweden in the north and extending to the Caucasus and the Ural Mountains in the east.

## DANGER

Populations of this orchid have suffered large declines due to habitat destruction and intense agriculture. It requires unfertilised and unploughed grasslands.

## PROTECTION

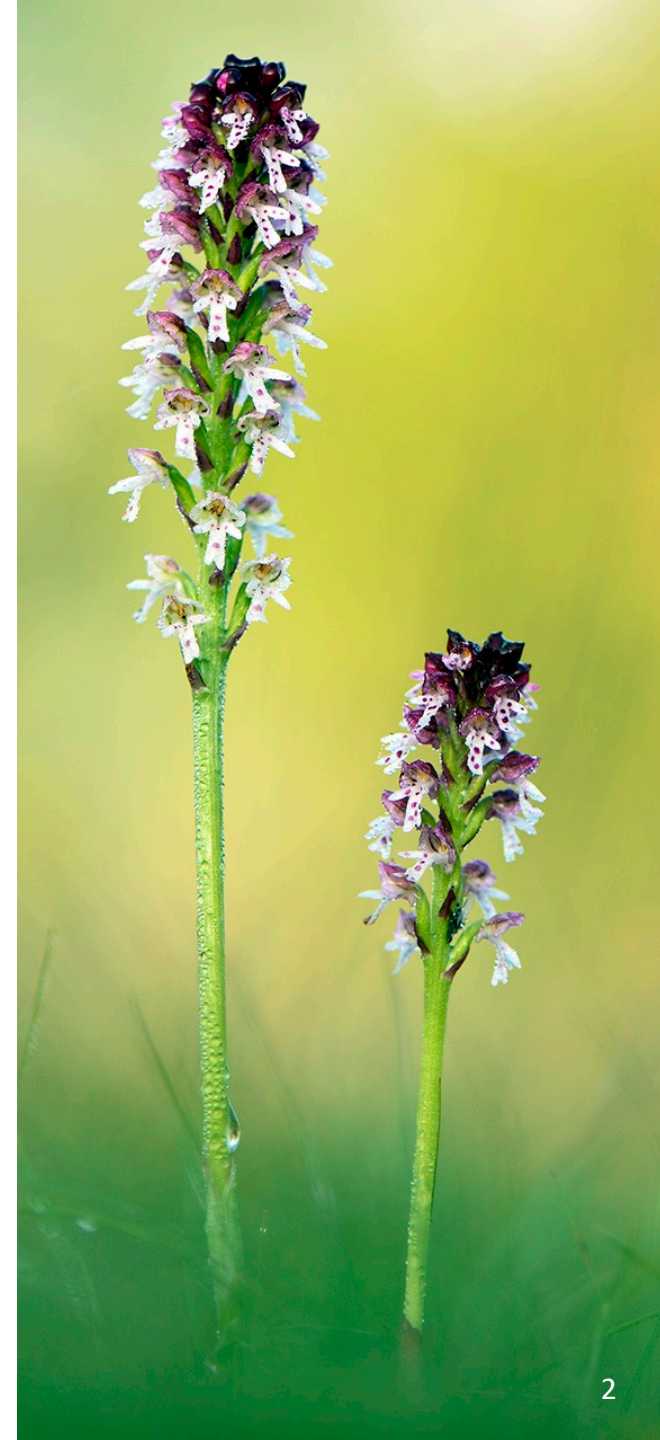
CITES Washington Convention - Annex II.  
EU regulation of trade of fauna and flora - Annex B.  
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Least Concern.

TEXT: ŽIVA FIŠER

PHOTOS: VITOMIL KRŽIŠNIK (1), JOŠT STERGARŠEK (2)



1



2