



*Neotinea tridentata*



Restoration of  
dry-acidic  
Continental  
grasslands and  
heathlands  
in Natura2000  
sites in  
Piemonte and  
Lombardia.



*Anacamptis morio*

## CHAMPIONS OF STRATEGY

**NAME:** *Neotinea tridentata* (Scop.) R.M.Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W.Chase  
Common name: Three-toothed orchid  
*Anacamptis morio* (L.) R.M.Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W.Chase  
Common name: Green-winged orchid

### Habitat

H6210\* – Perennial dry grasslands (semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates).

This habitat is considered a European conservation priority due to the abundant presence of orchids. To qualify for priority status, sites must satisfy at least one of the following criteria: (a) host an abundant and varied contingent of orchid species; (b) host at least one orchid species nationally considered uncommon; (c) host one or more species nationally considered rare, very rare or exceptionally rare.

### Location

Habitat 6210 is present in the LIFE Drylands project areas in Trecate, in Provincia di Novara.

### Recognition

These orchids bear a fleshy inflorescence at the apical part of the only stem. Although the flowers are smaller than those of indoor varieties, they are similarly colourful and striking.

The identification of species can be difficult in some cases.

### Important to know

European orchids are pollinated by insects. The pollination process is the outcome of co-evolution between orchids and insects, and is sometimes so precise that certain species of orchids are only pollinated by a certain species or group of species of insect.

### Beneficial species

Pollinators, especially butterflies (Lepidoptera), wild bees and wasps (Hymenoptera).

### Enemy species

Woody plant species that colonize grasslands and create shade, resulting in conditions that are unfavourable for the growth of the Three-toothed orchid and the Green-winged orchid.

### Did you know?

The minute seeds of orchids do not contain food reserves, and unlike those of other plants they do not contain an embryo. This means that germination is only possible in the presence of small fungi that penetrate the cells of the seed, stimulating division and growth and the formation of the orchid seedling. This symbiotic association between fungus and seed is called a mycorrhiza.

### Intervention sites ZSC IT1150001 Valle del Ticino (NO).

> No specific interventions on the orchids in Habitat 6210\* are foreseen, but the exemplars present will be protected from possible damage during planned project interventions (cutting of woody species that are closing the habitat, mowing of herbaceous species and floristic enrichment with typical species). To ensure their protection, orchids in the Trecate site have been censused and geolocalized to avoid them being trampled on or crushed by vehicles. In any case, it was thought that opening the habitat would favour their spread. This turned out to be correct: in 2021, a total of about 100 individuals of Three-toothed orchid and Green-winged orchid were recorded in the Trecate site.

**In 2022, following the planned project interventions, about 200 individuals were recorded in the same site!**

>>> LIFE DRYLANDS: IT'S TIME FOR DRY HABITATS!

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