PLANT FACT SHEET

Ophrys apifera Huds.

GENUS *Ophrys* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Bee orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

DESCRIPTION

A ground orchid. It grows 15-60 cm high. It is higher in moist ground. The leaves at the base are oval or sword shaped and blunt. The stem leaves are similar but smaller. There are 2-7 flowers on each stalk. The flowers are 2.5 cm across. The sepals are pink or purple with the mid vein green. The petals are green or purple and almost triangle shaped. They are less than one third the length of the sepals. The lip is 10-13 mm long and brown or purple. It has 3 lobes and the central lobe has the tip bent backwards.

HABITAT

It prefers dry to moist grassland and wasteland between sea level and 1600 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from tubers.

NOTES

There are about 140 Ophrys species.

REFERENCES

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 519

Holliman, J., (Ed.), 2002, Orchids. Botanica's Pocket. Random House, Australia. p 400

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d0d616ea-0562-46a3-8e69-5eec77018121