

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910458454603321
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Titolo	Orchids of Britain and Ireland : a field and site guide / / Anne and Simon Harrap
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, [England] : , : A&C Black, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-4729-6584-1 1-282-72381-2 9786612723810 1-4081-2736-9
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1335 p.)
Disciplina	635.93415
Soggetti	Orchids - Great Britain Orchids - Ireland Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover Page; Dedication; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Introduction; Orchid Biology; Orchid Habitats; Orchid Conservation; Field Guide; Site Guide; Glossary; Sources of Information and Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	Orchids have long held a fascination, both for keen botanists and the general public. From the mania of Victorian collectors to the enthusiasm of modern photographers, this family of flowering plants has a strange and exotic appeal. Many orchids are beautiful, and some are rare. This well illustrated orchid guide covers the identification, biology and conservation of British and Irish orchids. Until recently, the whereabouts of the rarer species was shrouded in secrecy, making publication of any details ethically impossible. In the last few years, however, these veils have been lifted and it i