

Orchid Detective

Bush Orchid Identification Worksheet

Use several clues together. Look closely at the leaf, flower structure, habitat, location and season - never identify an orchid by flower colour alone.

1. WHERE IS IT GROWING?

☐ Ground ☐ Tree ☐ Rock

Describe the spot: _____

2. LEAF CLUES

How many leaves? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ Several

Leaf shape: ☐ Narrow ☐ Broad ☐ Heart-shaped
☐ Tubular

Leaf surface: ☐ Hairy ☐ Smooth ☐ Spotted
☐ Ribbed

3. FLOWER CLUES

Number of flowers: _____

Flower size: _____

Flower shape: ☐ Finger ☐ Spider ☐ Donkey
☐ Hood ☐ Sun ☐ Other

Labellum (lip): ☐ Smooth ☐ Hairy ☐ Fringed
☐ Spotted ☐ Ridged ☐ Bumpy

Colour and markings: _____

Petals / sepals - what do you notice? _____

4. WHEN AND WHERE?

Date: _____ Month: _____ Location: _____

Habitat: ☐ Forest ☐ Woodland ☐ Heath ☐ Grassland ☐ Wetland

Conditions: ☐ Dry ☐ Damp ☐ Seasonally wet ☐ Sunny ☐ Shaded

ORCHID DETECTIVE TIP

Don't photograph only the flower - the leaf may hold the clue.

5. MY IDENTIFICATION

Genus: _____

Species: _____

What clues helped me decide?

If you are unsure, record the genus or write "possible" rather than guessing.

Sketch the whole orchid

Include the flower, stem, leaf and any buds if visible.