

### Kemer Orkidesi (*Ophrys climacis*)



This unique plant faces the threat of complete extinction in the future due to the indiscriminate harvesting of its tubers for salep production and the destruction of its natural habitats.

The Kemer Orchid is typically found in the Kemer Kesme Valley. However, in recent years, the collection of this rare plant for salep raw material has put significant pressure on its natural habitats. For this reason, the Kemer Orchid is classified as a Critically Endangered (CR) endemic plant species due to the scarcity of its habitat and the threat of extinction.

Conservation experts emphasize that urgent measures must be taken to protect the Kemer Orchid. These measures should include controlling unsustainable tuber harvesting practices, conserving natural habitats, and implementing steps to prevent the species from disappearing.

The Kemer Orchid is not only a part of our biodiversity but also an important component of Antalya's natural heritage.

Kangay (*Rhaponticoides hierroi*)



Kangay is one of our local endemic species discovered in recent years. The first specimens of the species were found along the Antalya-Saklıkent route. In subsequent studies, a new population was also discovered approximately 80 km southwest of this area, around Dereköy (Fethiye/Muğla).

The total habitat of the plant is less than 10 km<sup>2</sup>. Fewer than 3,000 individuals have been observed across both locations. It is threatened by habitat destruction due to settlement and agricultural activities. Kangay grows in openings of red pine forests at elevations of 950–1,100 meters and blooms in July.

Kangay is a perennial herbaceous species that can grow up to approximately 2 meters in height. It has a robust taproot, generally simple stems, and an upright habit. Its basal leaves are stiff, 2-pinnate, and hairless, with short, stiff rough margins and veins. The ovate-spherical flower heads are about 3–5 cm in diameter.

The flower heads are surrounded by 6–7 rows of keeled, scaly leaves arranged in shingle-like patterns—a key distinguishing feature of the species—with white, membranous tips. The flowers are pale yellow, approximately 5 cm long, with prominent five-veined structures.

### Kaputaş Andızotu (*Inula sechmenii*)



One of these unique species is the Kaputaş Tansy (*Inula sechmenii*), found in Kaputaş Cave and its surrounding area. This plant, which exists only in this region in the world, is considered a natural wonder.

The Kaputaş Tansy, growing especially in limestone rocky areas around Kaputaş Cave, is regarded as one of the most significant representatives of Turkey's biological diversity. The fact that this species is endemic to this area highlights the region's unique geographical features and rich biodiversity.

Kaputaş Cave is not only a natural marvel that attracts nature enthusiasts but also draws the attention of biologists. This cave system contributes to the conservation of biodiversity by hosting rare plant species such as Kaputaş Tansy.

The protection and sustainable management of Turkey's natural riches are crucial for the survival of special species like Kaputaş Tansy. Therefore, preserving Kaputaş Cave and its surroundings, and maintaining the balance of its natural ecosystem, is considered an important step toward conserving biodiversity.

Side Canavarotu (*Orobanche sideana*)



Side Monster Herb is a plant species belonging to the Monster Herb family and shares characteristics with other members of this family. However, this unique species is recognized for its distinctive traits. Young plants exhibit a yellowish color, which turns red as they mature, a unique feature that sets them apart from other species.

Moreover, the Side Monster Herb grows exclusively on the sand dunes of Side, making it particularly special. However, the future of this unique plant species is under serious threat. Uncontrolled construction and expansion along the beach area are shrinking the natural habitats of the Side Monster Herb.

Plant conservation experts and environmental organizations advocate for urgent measures to protect the Side Monster Herb. These measures include preserving its natural habitat, implementing sustainable coastal management, and monitoring tourist activities.

The Side Monster Herb is not only a part of Antalya's natural heritage but also an integral component of the country's biodiversity.



Olimpos Safranı (*Crocus wattiorum*)



In Olimpos Saffron, the corm is covered with a semi-fleshy tunic, and the plant typically has around five leaves, which are almost fully visible during the flowering period. The flowers measure 2.5–4 cm in length, with a yellow, hairless throat. The segments are nearly equal in length, lilac-blue in color, and marked with dark veins. The filaments are thread-like, and the anthers are dark purplish before opening. The style is divided into three long branches, which are bright red in color.

The flowering period of the species occurs in October and November. It can be found in crevices on rocks, under pine forests, and in open areas, at elevations up to 1,400 meters. Previously, corms of this species were believed to have been illegally exported from Turkey, and as a result, the species is now cultivated abroad and sold online.

Due to tourism-related construction in the species' type locality, studies have been initiated to implement conservation measures and protect its natural habitat.