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Fauna & Flora International
4th Floor, Jupiter House
Station Road
Cambridge
CB1 2JD
UK

In the USA:

Fauna & Flora International US
1720 N Street
NW, Washington
DC 20036
USA

In Australia:

Fauna & Flora International Australia
62 Cambridge Street
Collingwood
Victoria
3066
Australia

Telephone us:

In the UK: +44 (0)1223 57 1000

In the USA: +1 202 375 7766

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Cover In several eastern Mediterranean countries orchids, such as this naked man orchid *Orchis italica*, are or have been collected from the wild for the production of salep, a beverage made of dried orchid tubers. A study in north-western Greece has shown that several orchid species are traded for the production of salep, and none are cultivated. Tubers collected in Greece, Albania and Turkey are sold in northern Greece for EUR 55–150 per kg. Recent catalysts such as the increasing demand for traditional, organic and alternative foodstuffs, and the 2009 economic downturn, have led to a revival of salep consumption, with an increasing number of salep harvesters from Greece and Albania scouring the mountains for harvestable tubers, using unsustainable harvesting practices. For further details, see pp. 393–396. (Photograph © Diego López Alvarez / Natureinst / Ardea.com)



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