

DANCING-LADY ORCHID

Oncidium undulatum (Sw.) Salisb.

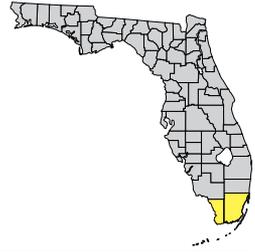
Synonym: *Oncidium luridum* Lindl., misapplied

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Oncidium undulatum



Roger Hammer



Oncidium floridanum

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Field Description (photos, top): Orchid attached to tree trunks, usually in large clumps, by many white aerial roots. Stems (pseudobulbs) less than 1 inch long with a single leaf rising from the tip. Leaves 4 - 24 inches long and 2 - 5 inches wide, stiff, solid, leathery. Flower stalk to 7 feet long with a showy, much-branched cluster of up to 50 flowers, brown to yellow-green with large, irregular red-brown mottles and a conspicuous white column in the center. Sepals and petals spreading and ruffled; lip 3-lobed, the lateral lobes small and knobby, the middle lobe broad and spreading.

Similar and Related Rare Species (photo, bottom, and drawing): Florida dancing-lady orchid (*O. ensatum*, synonym: *O. floridanum*), state-endangered, has pear-shaped pseudobulbs bearing 2 - 3 long, narrow, flexible leaves. Flowers are yellow mottled with brown, in clusters up to 8 feet long with up to 80 flowers. It grows on tree bases, rotting logs, or on the ground.

Dancing-lady orchid

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Habitat: Dancing-lady orchid: hammocks, cypress swamps, buttonwood forests. Florida dancing-lady orchid: rockland hammocks, cypress swamps.

Best Survey Season: Dancing-lady orchid flowers December–June, primarily May. Florida dancing-lady orchid flowers all year, primarily May–August.

Range-wide Distribution: Dancing-lady orchid: FL, West Indies, Central and South America. Florida dancing-lady orchid: FL, West Indies.

Conservation Status: Both of these species occur in several parks and preserves, but their populations have been decimated by plant poachers.

Protection & Management: Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Protect rockland and wetland habitats from development. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985a, McCartney 1985c, McCartney 1992a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

