

CAPE SABLE DANCING-LADY ORCHID

Trichocentrum undulatum (Swartz) Ackerman
& M.W. Chase

Synonyms: *Oncidium luridum* Lindl.;
Oncidium undulatum (Sw.) Salisb.

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Oncidium undulatum

Roger Hammer



Oncidium floridanum

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Field Description: Orchid attached to tree trunks, usually in large clumps, by many white aerial roots. Stems (pseudobulbs) less than 2.5 cm long with a single leaf rising from the tip. Leaves 10 - 85 cm long and 5 - 12 cm wide, stiff, solid, leathery. Flower stalk to 0.8 - 3.0 m 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 Species: 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 2.5 m long with up to 80 flowers. It grows on tree bases, rotting logs, or on the ground.

Cape Sable dancing-lady orchid

Trichocentrum undulatum

Related Rare Species: 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 2.5 m long with up to 80 flowers. It grows on tree bases, rotting logs, or on the ground.

Habitat: Mangrove and cypress swamps, and tropical hammocks; epiphytic.

Best Survey Season: Winter-Summer; December - June, primarily May.

Range-wide Distribution: Mule ear 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 and 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.

