

POSSIBLE NEW ORCHID EXTINCTIONS

Scientists and conservationists don't declare a species extinct all that often because, well, hope remains eternal. Even if they know that an existing population disappears, there's always the possibility that the species itself still exists on the next hill over, or under a rock, or somewhere we have yet to search.

Sometimes, however, hope is hard to hang on to. That's why 25 species have just been identified as "critically endangered, possibly extinct" in the latest update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The list of possibly extinct species includes a frog, numerous orchids, several Hawaiian plants and a lost legume—all of which have not been seen for many years, but none of which conservationists have completely given up hope about.

Bulbophyllum erythroglossum, *B. hirsutiusculum*, *B. minax*, *B. sanguineum* and *B. tampoketsense* — These orchids, all native to Madagascar, each had incredibly small known habitats which have now been degraded by wood harvesting and subsistence agriculture. Illegal orchid collectors also took their toll. They were last seen in 1964, 1928, 1919, 1925 and 1923, respectively.

Cynorkis bimaculata, *C. catatii*, *C. rolfei* and *C. sylvatica* — More missing Madagascar orchids. Last seen in 1961, 1889, 1903 and 1951.

Disperis bosseri, *Eulophia grandidieri* and *Hymenodictyon seyrigii* — More orchids. Last seen in 1957, 1901 and 1942.



Cynorkis sylvatica



Cynorkis bimaculata