

Orobanche minor

Commonly: Lesser Broomrape

Vascular Plant Family: Orobanchaceae

Flowers late winter and spring

Orobanche minor is a parasitic herb on the roots of other plants. It is glandular hairy and can be up to 50cm tall. It is native to Europe and sometimes mistaken for an orchid.

The flowers are bisexual and occur in the axils of bracts along the spike.



The flowers are white trimmed with purple. The 2 sepals are 14mm long and divided into 2 slender triangular segments. The petals are tubular and curved up to 20mm long. There are 2 lips, the upper lip is notched, the lower lip is 3-lobed with the margins irregularly cut. The 4 stamens are inserted on the floral tube.

The base of the plant is swollen and bulb-like.



The fruit is a capsule to 10mm long opening by 2 valves.

*Indicates it is a weed