

# Orchids of Trinidad & Tobago

Photographs by Nancy Thomas Apr. 2018

***OGG member Nancy Thomas and her husband recently visited Trinidad and Tobago. Weather interfered with her photography on Trinidad. She found two orchids, *Spiranthes acaulis* and *Spiranthes lanceolata*, to photograph on Tobago which also occur in Trinidad. Both plants were found along trails.***



*Spiranthes acaulis*. This terrestrial orchid blooms March to June. Pale white and green flowers borne on an upright inflorescence up to 50 cm. long. Flowers may have a strong citrus-like scent. Natural spread of flowers about 1.5 cm. On the island, it is found in leaf mould on forest floor in medium to deep shade at low elevations. *Spiranthes lanceolata* is also a terrestrial orchid. It blooms from May to June. Pale orange flowers covered with fine hairs. Flowers do not open fully to display the lip. 10 to 15 flowers bunched at the top of a 30 to 40 cm. inflorescence opening sequentially. Each flower approximately 1.5 cm. in length. Grows on the ground along road verges in the northern range of Trinidad. --From the database of the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society