Old treaties of medicine described traditional medicinal uses of orchids in Europe. The pharmacological properties of plants were deduced from observation of their shape and this well before Paracelsus makes this theory famous. In Europe until the Middle Ages, the orchids were used in potions like exciting according to various medicine books. A German doctor, Leonhart Fousch (1501-1566), describes also species of orchids to fight inflammation, ulcers and some tumors. More precisely, he reports in 1549 a cosmetic use of Satyrium regium, “to remove the wrinkles of the face”. A rare manuscript dated 1589 of a French apothecary makes mention of the subsistence use of dried gum extracted from Satyrion bulbs (Orchis mascula). Originating in the Middle East, the salep prepared from dried bulbs of various orchis species rich in nutritive water-soluble polysaccharide glucomannan, was employed as a tonic for children and convalescents. It was also used in jelly, in an analeptic medicinal chocolate or as a drink in England and Europe before the arrival of the tea and coffee, as recalled by Joseph Lieutaud (1703-1780), in his 1776 medicine treaty. At the same period, in the north of Europe, some species of Dactylorhiza were described like disinfectant, healing or diuretic.