



*Paris quadrifolia* L., Herb Paris or True Lover's Knot, was chosen as the emblem for the EuroGard VII congress in Paris.

Photo : F. Perriat / CBNBP



The Herb Paris is a small rhizomatous geophyte in the Melanthiaceae family.

It is remarkable for its leaves and floral parts all whorled in 4. Its inconspicuous flowers are wind- or self-pollinated.

It is found in moist woodlands on calcareous soils, across the temperate and boreal regions of Europe, including the Paris Basin.

Photo : F. Perriat / CBNBP



The species is in decline due to the aggressive methods of modern forestry. Regeneration is mainly by vegetative spread because seed dispersal is limited. Since the species colonizes new forest stands very slowly, management should focus mainly on conservation of ancient forest stands.

Its current name comes from the medieval name *Herba Paris*.

According to interpretations, it evokes Paris the mythological hero, or more probably comes from the Latin *par*, equal, in reference to its regular morphology.

