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CONTRIBUTION TO THE
NATURAL HISTORY OF
AROOSTOOK ∴ ∴ ∴

THE ORCHIS

BY OLOF O. NYLANDER

CARIBOU, MAINE

AROOSTOOK REPUBLICAN PRINT, CARIBOU, MAINE

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FOREWORD

To say that, when our country was in the making, nature showered her choicest blessings upon Aroostook with lavish hand, is simply to re-state an accepted fact. As a natural consequence of this fertility of soil and a topography admirably adapted to the best development of the vegetable life of cooler parts of the temperate zone our hillsides and forests have produced some of the most rare and beautiful flowers to be found upon the continent.

Unfortunately we cannot turn these natural resources to material ends and still retain the native beauties. As a forest becomes cleared land adapted to the production of the necessities of our modern civilization, many of the flowers disappear never to return.

Probably no man in Maine has a wider knowledge of the haunts of these rare wild flowers than Mr. Olof O. Nylander of Woodland, and we wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his kindness in bringing many of the beautiful things to be seen about us to our attention in the schools by lectures, living specimens, and the use of his large collection.

In publishing this little pamphlet of a few of the most rare and beautiful Orchis found in this region we feel that Mr. Nylander is doing a good work; for in this way alone can the coming generations be taught what the native flora of this section was.

R. J. LIBBY
Superintendent of Schools

Caribou, Maine

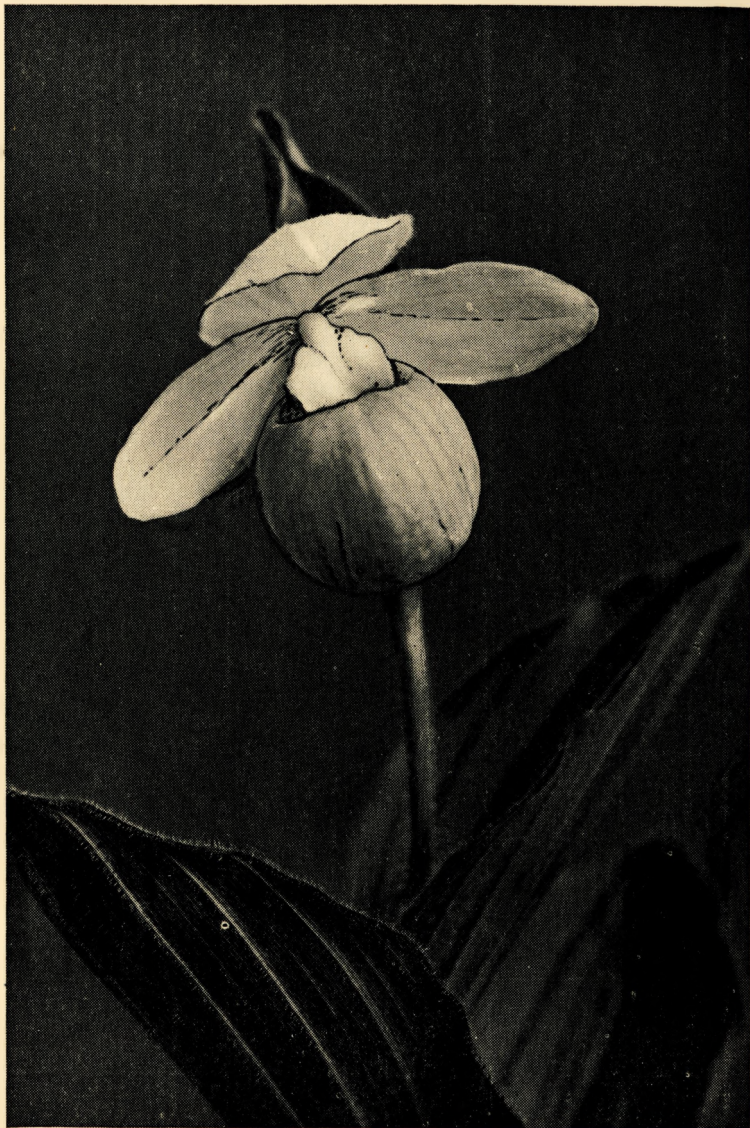


Photo by Wright

CYPRIPEDIUM HIRSUTUM

by careful search we shall find five more. Many of the Orchis are rarely seen, and they have never received popular names; so the only way to make these gems of Nature popular is to have good illustrations made of them and the localities given where they grow.

There are many things to prove that the section referred to above is very favorable for the native Orchis. They attain large size, are very richly colored, and many of them, like *Cypripedium parviflorum*, *C. pubescens* and *C. spectabilis*, have two flowers on the stem, and this is rather rare in other parts of the state.

I have in my possession a specimen of *Calypso bulbosa* collected on my farm in Woodland in the spring of 1903, with two flowers on the stem—probably the only double-flowered specimen on record.

I hereby present a list of all the Orchis I have found in Aroostook with their common and scientific names and if limited in distribution the locality is given and other notices, that will aid lovers of these plants to find them.

I would like to illustrate them all, but it would be a great expense, so only a few of the most attractive ones are represented by illustration at this time.

ORCHIDACEAE (ORCHIS FAMILY)

parviflorum
1. *Cypripedium parviflorum*, Salisb. Smaller yellow lady's slipper. A common plant found in swamps and open bogs, in Caribou, Woodland, New Sweden and Perham. A plant from 8 to 20 inches high, with from three to five oval pointed leaves and one, often two, bright yellow slipper shaped flowers, blooming through June, July and the first of August.

2. *Cypripedium pubescens*, Willd. Larger yellow Lady's Slipper. This large and beautiful Orchis used to be common on the hardwood ridges in New Sweden, Woodland and Perham. Patches of a hundred or more of these beautiful flowers were often seen 15 to 20 years ago, but the land is nearly all cleared so they are nearly exterminated. Stem 15 to 25 inches, with four or five broad, oval pointed leaves and one, rarely two, large yellow slipper-shaped flower; flowers in their prime between June 10 to 20.

3. *Cypripedium hirsutum*, Mill. Showy Lady's Slipper. A large and attractive plant that grows in wet mossy open cedar swamps. It is common in Barren Brook Bog, Caribou, bogs on Caribou stream in Wood-



Photo by Wright
CYPRIDIUM ACAULE



Photo by Wright
ORCHIS ROTUNDIFOLIA

land, in New Sweden near the Railroad Station and at Fogelin Lake and Salmon Brook Lake Bog, Perham. Stem 20 to 28 inches with five to eight ovate pointed hirsute leaves, one, often two, large white and crimson colored flowers. They are in their finest between the 4th and 20th of July.

4. *Cypripedium acaule*, Ait. Stemless Lady's Slipper. Moccasin flower, it is mostly found in spruce and hemlock forests, and not very common. A plant with two leaves near the ground and stem from six to nine inches, with one moccasin-like flower, white, sometimes pink or rose purple. May 30th to June 20th.

5. *Orchis rotundifolia*, Banks. This is one of the rarest plants in New England. I have found this in a cedar swamp in Woodland, and two plants were found in the bog north of Salmon Brook Lake, Perham, in July, 1906. Stem, eight to ten inches with a single leaf at the base and spike of four to eight, flower white with purple blue spots. June 28 to July 10.

6. *Habenaria bracteata*, Willd. Rein Orchis, Wood Orchis. Generally distributed in the hardwood forests. Stem with four to five leaves and spikes of green flower. A stem 18 inches will have a spike of flowers five to six inches and a stem of ten inches, a spike three to four inches. June and July.

7. *Habenaria hyperborea*, Linne. Habit, low, wet ground; flower, greenish white. Stem with four to six lanceolate leaves. A plant of 32 inches will have a dense spike from eight to nine inches.

8. *Habenaria hyperborea*, Var. A variety of this plant with dark green flower is rarely seen. I have found them on the hardwood ridges in New Sweden and Woodland.

9. *Habenaria dilatata*, Pursh. This, the tallest of our Orchis, grows in wet and open bogs on Caribou stream, in Woodland, New Sweden and Perham. Stem with four to six long, slender lanceolate leaves and a dense spike of small white, sweet scented flowers. July, August and September. I have often seen this Orchis attain 40 inches in height and a spike of flowers from 12 to 15 inches.

10. *Habenaria clavellata*, Michx. I have only found this plant around Little Mud Lake, Westmanland. It is in full blossom the first week of August.

11. *Habenaria obtusata*, Pursh. Moist spruce forest,

Woodland and New Sweden. Not common. July 10 to 20.

12. *Habenaria hookeri*, Torr. Wood Orchis (Heal-all.) Stem, stout, with two orbicular leaves being on the ground. It will sometimes attain a size of 16 inches and a spike of small greenish flower five to seven inches. May June and July.

13. *Habenaria orbiculata*, Pursh. (Heal-all.) Leaves, two, large oval or orbicular, sometimes attaining eight inches in length and seven and one-half inches in width, lying on the ground. Stem, slender, sometimes 25 to 28 inches in height and a spike of white greenish flower, rather open, and often eight to ten inches. Habit in the hardwood forest. July and August.

14. *Habenaria ciliaris*, Linne. Yellow fringed Orchis. Has been reported to me from Ashland.

15. *Habenaria blephariglottis*, Wild. White fringed Orchis. This beautiful and rare plant I first found on Erick Olson's farm, New Sweden—one plant, 1904; at Mud Lake, Westmanland, the last week of July, 1917, I found in blossom a hundred or more, and at Salmon Brook Lake Bog three specimens were collected in July, 1907.

16. *Habenaria leucophaea*, Nutt. This plant is, to my knowledge, found only at the big bog at Crystal Station, where I found some in 1904.

17. *Habenaria psycodes*, Linne. Purple Fringed Orchis. My friend, Philip Phair, Esq., of Presque Isle informed me some years ago that the Purple Fringed Orchis was sometimes found near the Presque Isle stream. I have collected it at Temiscouata Lake, Province of Quebec, August 1, 1913, and at Moose River, Somerset County, Maine, August 1, 1914.

18. *Pagonia ophioglossoides*, L. This is a rare plant with us. I have seen it at only one station—Small Mud Lake, Westmanland. On the east side of the lake there is a large bunch, but they seldom blossom. I found a few flowers in July, 1908.

19. *Calopogon pulchellus*, Sw. My attention to this plant was first called by Nels Grill, and in his company I have collected a few specimens on the east side of Mud Lake, Westmanland, on July 12—20, the only place I have seen it growing.

20. *Arethusa bulboso*, Linne. On June 24 and July



Photo by Wright

CALYPSO BULBOSA

12, 1904, I collected five fine specimens in New Sweden, on the west side of Fogelin Lake; the only station I know of. Stem, slender; with one slipper shaped, rose purple or pink flower and very beautiful.

21. **Spiranthes cernua**, Linne. Ladies' Tresses. In moist, grassy places. Stem, slender; with grass-like leaves, spike of white, sweet scented flowers.

22. **Spiranthes romanzoffiana**, Cham. Much like the preceding, found on the west branch of Caribou stream, Woodland, flower, July and through August.

23. ~~Spiranthes~~ ^{*Epipactis*} ~~repens~~ ^{*russellata*}, Linne. Rattlesnake Plantain. The leaves are dark green, mottled with white or light green, and have an appearance slightly resembling a snake's skin. It is of common occurrence in the hardwood forests. Stem, seven to ten inches; spike of white, sweet scented flower. July and August.

24. **Epipactis ophioides**, Fernald. Like the preceding, but smaller and always found in wet mossy places, in the spruce woods. The leaves are dark, velvety green with light fine marking, and very beautiful. Found in New Sweden, Woodland and Perham. August and September.

25. **Epipactis** ~~*russellata*~~ ^{*decipiens*}, Lodd. The largest of the Rattlesnake Plantain. The leaves are dark, mottled with light green along the center, from two to three and one-half inches long. Stem, 10 to 12 inches and spike of white, sweet scented flowers, two to four inches. This is one of the rarest plants in Maine. I have found two bunches in New Sweden, near the Capitol; three bunches in Perham and a few single plants in Woodland. Habit near the top of hills in mixed forests of spruce, hemlock and some hardwood. All the Rattlesnake Plantains are evergreens.

26. **Listera cordata**, Lindl. This listera is found on the west branch of Caribou Stream, Woodland.

27. **Listera australis**, Lindl. This little listera is found on the west side of Little Mud Lake, Westmanland.

28. **Listera convallarioides**, Sw. Found on the east side of the Capitol Hall, New Sweden. Flower in middle of July.

29. **Corallorrhiza trifida**, Chatelain. Coral Root. In a wet bog on the east side of Little Mud Lake, Westmanland, 1907, and a few plants collected on John C. Johnson's farm, New Sweden, some years ago.

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30. **Corallorrhiza maculata, Raf.** Often seen in the hardwood ridges in New Sweden, Woodland and Perham.

31. **Calypso bulbosa, Linne.** Among botanists, *C. bulbosa* is considered one of the most beautiful and rare plants. Sometimes I have found a good number of these plants in the cedar swamps on the headwaters of Caribou stream in New Sweden, Woodland and Perham. Among the Orchis it is the first one to open and I have collected on the 6th of May, 1916, in full bloom on my farm in Woodland, and I have found it the last week in June. This is the most enduring flower I have ever seen. Sometimes I have had them standing in a little dampmoss in my room for three weeks before they have begun to wither, and any ordinary frost common with us in May and June seems to have no effect on them.

In preparing this list of the Orchis of Aroostook County I have followed Gray's New Manual of Botany, Seventh Edition—the best text book for New England.

Caribou, Aroostook County, Maine, January, 1918.