

Our Native Orchids

(By "Agricola")

In that wild orchid that your feet in their next falling shall destroy, Minutes and passionate and sweet, The Mighty Master holds His joy. "A. E."—In Poet's Corner. The family Orchidaceae is one of the most interesting groups of the flowering plants; partly from the remarkable forms which the flowers of some species assume and partly from the highly specialized devices employed to secure fertilization by some definite variety of insect. The orchids long ago attracted the attention of Darwin and other celebrated naturalists; the exotic species are often extremely beautiful and

complicated, and withal very costly to the collector. Orchids are distinguished by their perfect, irregular flowers, with their perianth adnate to the one-celled ovary. The perianth is of six divisions, i.e., three answering to sepals and three to petals. One of the latter is differentiated to form the "lip." At the base of the lip, in the heart of the flower, is a peculiar structure called the column, which consists of the style coalesced with the anther (or two anthers, in Cypripedium), an arrangement indicated by the term gynandrous. The fruit is a one celled, three-valved capsule.

KEY TO THE ISLAND ORCHIDS

(Revised by Mr. Harold Messervy) (A) Cypripediaceae: Lip saccate, in-

flated, fertile anthers two, pollen grain granular or powdery, not in masses. Flowers showy, large, stem leafy.

(1) Cypripedium acaule. Alt. Stemless Lady's-slipper. Perianth greenish-brown, lip rose-purple, fissured in front. Leaves basal, 2, stem short. A white-flowered form occurs. Late June, in dry to swampy evergreen woods. (M: 307).

(2) C. hirsutum Mill. Showy Lady's-Slipper. Sepals orbicular, lip white, pink-purple in front, with a round orifice but not fissured. Stem hirsute, 4-8 dm. high. Synonyms C. spatulata, or C. reginae. Late June or early July in swamps and wet woods (M: 307).

(B) Ophrydeae: Flowers with a conspicuous spur, racemose. Fertile anther solitary, persistent; pollen grains in a waxy mass with a stalk and a basal disc.

(3) Habenaria clavellata. (Michx.) Spreng. Three-toothed Rein Orchid. Flower small, yellow or greenish; lip apically three-lobed, lobes equal and very short; spur clavate, long; pedicels spreading. Late July, in sphagnum bogs. Syn. H. tridentata Hook. (M: 300).

(4) H. orbiculata (Pursh) Torr. Round-leaved Orchid. Flower many, whitish-green; lip oblong, obtuse; spur clavate. Lea. basal, orbicular, large, 4-7 inches across; stem bracted. July, in dry hardwoods. (M: 300).

(5) H. blephariglotis (Willd.) Torr. White-fringed Orchid. Flower small, soft white, not shining; lip tongue-shaped, entire, shortly fringed; spur long. A dainty little plant. July, sphagnum moors and bogs. (M: 310).

(6) H. lacera (Michx.) R. Br. Ragged Orchid. Flower pale yellowish or whitish green; lip 3-parted, divisions with a long capillary fringe; petals entire; spur equalling the ovary. Late July, common in wet meadows. (B. H.: 310).

(7) H. leucophaea Gray. Said by MacSwain to occur here, perhaps in error for the preceding? The flower is larger, the petals minutely toothed, and the spur longer than the ovary, 3.5 cm. "Of doubtful occurrence"—Messervy. (M: 310).

(8) H. psycodes (L.) Sw. Purple-fringed Orchid. Flower soft mauve or lilac, 1-2 inch across, fragrant; lip 3-parted, spreading, fringed. Late July, in wet swampy meadows. (M: 311).

(9) H. Andrewsii. White. Andrews' Orchid. A hybrid of H. lacera and H. psycodes. Flower white, rose tinted, loosely racemed; petals cuneate-spathulate, obtuse, denticulate above; divisions of lip, and lower leaves, as in H. lacera. Late July, in swampy meadows. (Messervy: 311).

(10) H. fimbriata (Alt.) R. Br. Large flowered Orchid. Resembles H. psycodes but flower larger, paler, diam. of raceme greater, and leaf broader. Lip about 2 cm. wide. Syn. H. grandiflora Torr. "Occurrence doubtful"—Messervy. (Bain: 311).

(C) Neottiaceae. Flowers without a conspicuous spur; fertile anther solitary, pollen masses usually soft or granulose.

(a) Root fleshy-fibrous. (11) Pogonia ophioglossoides. (L.) Kerr. Rose Pogonia, Snakemouth. Flower solitary, pale rose to white; sepals and petals alike, lip lacerate-toothed, not lobed. Stem with one leaf at the middle. July, on sphagnum moors. (M: 311).

(b) Root a corm. (12) Arethusa bulbosa L. Arethusa. Flower solitary, erect, magenta-pink; apical half of lip recurved. Stem leafless, the single grass-like leaf appearing when the flower is gone. Late June, sphagnum moors and bogs. (Messervy: 312).

(13) Calopogon pulchellus (Sw.) R. Br. Grass-pink. Flower several, in a loose raceme, magenta (rarely white), resupinate with lip uppermost. Leaf solitary, basal, grass-like. Early July, on sphagnum moors. (M: 312).

(14) Spiranthes gracilis (Miq.) Beck. Slender Ladies'-tresses. Flower small, white, many, in a very long second raceme; lip greenish with white crisped margin. Lea. ovate in a basal rosette. Roots fasciculate. August in dry sandy woods. (M: 313).

(15) S. Romanoffiana. Cham. Hooded Ladies'-tresses. Flower white, larger than the preceding, racemose, almond-scented; sep. and pet. connivent into a hood, lip pandurate (fiddle-shaped). Stem leafy, roots fasciculate 5-8 mm. thick. August, dry or damp meadows or wood edges. (M: 314).

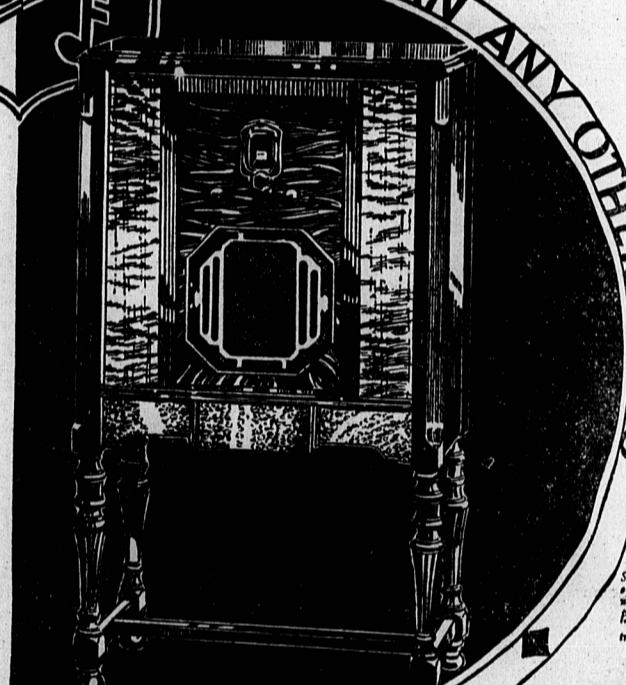
(16) Epipactis repens (L.) Crantz, var. ophioides. Fernald. Rattlesnake Plantain. Flower small, white, tinged green, in a loose second raceme; lip strongly saccate, inflated, tapering to a sharp point which is recurved. Lea. in a basal rosette, dark green, reticulated, with white blotches on the cross-veins. Rootstock fleshy. Late July in cold evergreen woods. (M: 315).

(D) Epidendreae. Anther solitary, pollen masses smooth and waxy.

(a) Plants leafless: roots coraloid. (17) Corallorrhiza trifida. Chatelaine. Early Coral-root. Flower small, pale yellow or greenish, 4 to 12 in a

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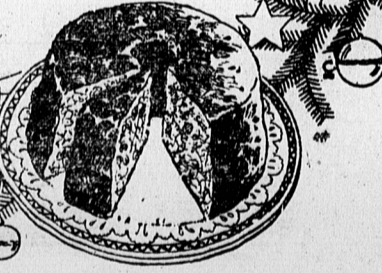
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raceme; lip white, 3-lobed hastately at the tip, not spotted. Stem-leaves reduced to scales. Late May, in damp rich woods. (Messervy: 317).

(18) C. maculata. Raf. Spotted Coral-root. A larger plant; flower purple and white, 10 to 30 in raceme; lip deeply 3-lobed, the lateral lobes small, the middle rather quadrate; column yellow, spotted magenta; spur manifest. Syn. C. multiflora Nutt. July, in dry hardwoods. (M: 317).

(19) C. odoratissima. Nutt. Is given in MacSwain's list, but is of doubtful occurrence, according to Messervy, as being a southern species. The plant is purplish, and the lip entire white, spotted magenta. (M: 317).

(b) Plants with leaves: root a corm. (20) Microstylis unifolia. (Michx.) S. P. Adder's Mouth. Flower very small, greenish, in a short raceme; pedicels much longer than the ovary; lip truncate, 3-lobed at the tip, middle lobe small. Leaf solitary, ovate, near the middle of the stem. Late July, in damp woods and thickets. (B. H.: 318).

(21) Liparis Loeselii. (L.) Richards. Twayblade. Flower whitish or yellowish-green, in a few-flowered raceme; lip narrow, cuneate or oblong, yellowish-green. Lea. 2, basal. (M: 318).

While these descriptions are very concise, they hold all the essential specific features, so that the student by their aid, may pronounce upon his plant with certainty. For extended study the page number of Gray's Manual of Botany is appended to each. The authority for the presence of the species is given in brackets, "M" referring to MacSwain's list. I must here express my obligation to Mr. H. A. Messervy for the dates of flowering and local habitats, and also for his care in revising my manuscript.

The following orchids are known to have a range from Newfoundland and E. Quebec southward into the U. S. A., and may be present here, though not yet reported: Cypripedium parviflorum (Willd.) R. Br.; H. obtusata (Pursh.) Richards; H. Hooked Torr.; Epipactis diplyens (Hook.) Ames; E. tessalata (Uodd. A. A. Eaton); Listera cordata (L.) R. Br.; U. auriculata Wieg.; L. convallarisides (Sw.) Torr.; and Microstylis monophylla (L.) Lindl.

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Grade VIII-1, Anna Rose.  
Grade VI-1, Clarence Rose; 2, Charles MacInnis; 3, Largus MacInnis.  
Grade V-1, Joseph MacDonald; 2, William McMurrer.  
Grade III-1, Margaret Rose; 2, Elizabeth Rose; 3, Irving Baker.  
Grade II-1, Francis Rose; 2, Ronald MacDonald.  
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