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THE ORCHIDS OF BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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An orchid is a plant with perfect, irregular, symmetrical flowers. There are three sepals and three petals, borne on the top of the ovary. The middle petal, called the lip—properly the upper one, but usually at the bottom, due to the twisting of the ovary—is larger and more conspicuous than the others. The flower has either one or two stamens, united with the style to form the column. The seeds are very small and numerous. The leaves, when present, are parallel-veined, entire, narrow and grass-like or broader.

The orchids are among the few groups of plants in which there is popular interest, due chiefly to the showy flowers of some of the tropical species and their reputation for rarity. To the scientist, they are of special interest because of adaptation to specific insects for pollination, and their dependence on certain fungi, without which the seeds will not grow.

Most of our native orchids are inconspicuous plants, restricted to little disturbed swamps and woodlands. The pink and the yellow lady's slippers, the showy orchis, and the yellow fringed orchid are common and attractive enough to be in danger of extermination from picking.

Additional records would be of interest, especially those of the four species which have been collected only once.

1. *Aplectrum hyemale* (Muhl.) Torr. PUTTY-ROOT. ADAM-AND EVE.

Quite rare. The only specimens on record were collected by T. J. Oberlin near Grill in 1874 and 1888; they are now at the Reading Museum. It has been reported from Sixpenny Creek and from the Blue Mountain north of Shartlesville.

Flowers in June; the leaf appears later and lasts through the winter.

2. *Calopogon pulchellus* (Salisb.) R. Br. GRASS PINK.

Rare. It has been found in bogs near Pricetown; along the Friedensburg Road near Five Points; east of Angelica; and near the Bethany Orphans Home, south of Womelsdorf.

Flowers late June to mid-July.

3. *Corllorhiza maculata* Raf. LARGE CORAL-ROOT.

Occasional in woods in the hills.

Flowers mid-July to late September.

4. *Corallorhiza odontorhiza* (Willd.) Nutt. SMALL CORAL-ROOT.

Rather frequent in woods in the hills.

Flowers late August to mid-September.

5. *Corallorhiza wisteriana* Conrad. EARLY CORAL Root.

Apparently quite rare. Records are from woods near Oley Furnace; Gibraltar Hill; and southeast of Reiffton.

Flowers in May.

6. *Cypripedinm acaule* Ait. PINK LADY'S SLIPPER. MOCCASIN FLOWER.

Frequent in dry acid soil in pine or oak woods.

Flowers mid- to late May.

7. *Cypriperlium calceolas* L., var. *puhescens* (Willd.) Correll. YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER.

Scattered, in woods in the hills.

Flowers early to mid-May.

8. *Epipactis pubescens* A.A. Eat. RATTLE-SNAKE PLANTAIN.

Frequent in woods in the hills. Gregarious.

Flowers late July to late August.

9. *Habenaria bracteata* (Muhl.) Gray

Known only from a specimen found in late May 1943 by David Berkheimer, in woods north of Gouglersville.

10. *Habenaria ciliaris* (L.) R.Br. YELLOW PRINGED ORCHIS.

Occasional in the hills, usually in moist open places.

A showy and beautiful plant.

Flowers early August to mid-September.

11. *Habenaria clavellata* (Michx.) Spreng.

An inconspicuous species, frequent in woods in the hills, usually growing in wet sphagnum.

Flowers late July to mid-August.

12. *Habenaria flava* (L.) R.Br., var. *virescens* Fern.

Occasional in wet meadows.

13. *Habenaria lacera* (Michx.) Lodd. GREEN FRINGED ORCHIS.

Occasional, in bogs and swampy thickets.

Flowers mid-July.

14. *Habenaria orbiculata* (Pursh) Torr. ROUND-LEAVED ORCHIS.

Very rare, in woods in the Reading Hills.

15. *Habenaria fimbriata* (Ait.) R.Br. PURPLE FRINGED ORCHIS.

Rare, along brooks in rocky woods.

Flowers early June.

16. *Habenaria psycodes* (L.) Spreng. SMALLER PURPLE FRINGED ORCHIS.

Found by David Berkheimer in moist woods north of Shartlesville in August 1938.

17. *Lipans lilifolia* (L.) Richard. TWAY-BLADE.

Rather frequent in woods in the hills.

Flowers late May to mid-June.

18. *Liparis loeselii* (L.) Richard.

Apparently quite rare. Reported in Porter's Flora of Pennsylvania from "near Reading"; collected by Walter Leibelsperger in the Oley Valley near Lobachsville in 1915; and, more recently, found by Mrs. Elizabeth Dillon at Antietam.

Flowers late June.

19. *Microstylis unifolia* Michx.

A very inconspicuous plant. In wet or dry acid soil in woods in the hills.

Flowers early June to early July.

20. *Orchis spectabilis* L. SHOWY ORCHIS.

Scattered or locally abundant in woods.

Flowers in May.

21. *Isotria medeoloides* (*Pogonia affinis*) (Pursh) Raf. SMALLER WHORLED POGONIA.

A single specimen was found by T. J. Oberlin in June 1882, in woods on what is now the Isaac Eberly estate, along the Morgantown Road south of Reading.

- 22. *Isotria verticillata* (Willd.) Raf. WHORLED POGONIA.**
Rather frequent in dry woods, but rarely flowering.
Flowers mid-May.
- 23. *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (L.) Ker. ROSE POGONIA.**
Rare, in bogs.
Flowers mid- to late May.
- 24. *Spiranthes cernual* (L.) Richard. COMMON LADIES TRESSES.**
Common in moist meadows and clearings.
Flowers through September.
- 25. *Spiranthes gracilis* (Bigel.) Beck**
Occasional in dry thickets in the hills.
Flowers mid-July to early September.
- 26. *Spiranthes Incida* (H.H.Eat.) Ames.**
Found by T. J. Oberlin June 11, 1874, probably along Punchy Run, south of Grill.
- 27. *Spiranthes t~berosa* (S. beckii) Raf.**
Dry grassy slope of Gibraltar Hill, southwest of Gibraltar.
Flowers late August to early September.

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