

COELOGLOSSUM VIRIDE (L.) Hartman  
Long-bracted Orchid

FAMILY: Orchidaceae.

SYNONYM: *Habenaria viridis* (L.) R. Br. var. *bracteata* (Muhl. ex Willd.) Gray

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 1.3-5.5 dm.; flowering late May-mid June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is very difficult to distinguish from the more frequent *Platanthera flava* (Tuberclad Rein Orchid), which also may be found in the same habitat as *Coeloglossum*. There are subtle differences in the nectaries and in the shape of the lips of these species. These differences are largely destroyed by pressing, so that dried specimens are especially difficult to determine. *P. flava* blooms later than *Coeloglossum*; also *P. flava* is slightly odorous, while *Coeloglossum* has no scent.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, in America, s. to NJ, MD, WV, OH, IA, and NE, and in the mountains for NC and CO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Erie, Henry, and Lucas counties. There are pre-1980 records from Allen, Auglaize, Butler, Champaign, Franklin, Lorain, Medina, Montgomery, Portage, and Summit counties.

HABITAT: A variety of mesic to wet woodlands, thickets, and shrub borders, usually in deep shade; grows in acidic or subacidic substrates; only rarely found in mature woodlands.

HAZARDS: Drying of habitat; maturation of habitat through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good; Sheviak (1974) indicates that it is more frequent in disturbed situations and is quite rare in mature, undisturbed sites.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Careful inspection of fresh material is necessary to avoid confusing this species with *Platanthera flava*, as lip characters are destroyed by pressing (see Similar Species).

COMMENTS: This inconspicuous green orchid is very difficult to see in the dark shade of the thickety spots it inhabits. It well may be more frequent than is generally believed. Careful searching of appropriate sites should uncover more populations, considering its known tolerance for disturbance.

There is some taxonomic confusion surrounding this plant. Many American authors place it within the genus *Habenaria* (see Synonym) Luer (1975), however, treats it as a largely North American variety of *Coeloglossum viride*. The typical variety of *C. viride* occurs throughout much of Eurasia and to a lesser extent in boreal North America.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Case, F.W., Jr. 1964. Orchids of the western Great Lakes region. Cranbrook Institute of Science Bull. No. 48, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 147 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Luer, C.A. 1975. The native orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida. New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY. 361 p.

Sheviak, C.J. 1974. An introduction to the ecology of the Illinois Orchidaceae. Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL. 90 p.



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