

MALAXIS UNIFOLIA Michx.  
Green Adder's-mouth

FAMILY: Orchidaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 0.6-3.5 dm.; flowering late June-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Blooming plants are most distinctive. The single green leaf of a non-flowering or young individual easily can be mistaken for an Adder's-tongue (*Ophiglossum sp.*) or the young leaf of various monocots.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Quebec to Manitoba, s. to FL, TX, W.I., and Central America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Athens, Fairfield, Hocking, Knox, Lawrence, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties. There are pre-1980 records from Gallia, Meigs, and Washington counties.

HABITAT: In acid humus of a variety of forest communities, including, but not limited to, oak-pine, oak-hickory, mixed mesophytic, and beech-hemlock; tolerant of deep shade.

HAZARDS: Opening of canopy and drying of forest floor; trampling and compaction of soil.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Blooming plants are unlikely to be misidentified.

COMMENTS: This small, green-flowered orchid is easily overlooked; it is probably far more frequent than the records indicate. It should be sought throughout the eastern half of the state.

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