

PLATANThERA GRANDIFLORA (Bigel.) Lindl.
Large Purple Fringed Orchid

FAMILY: Orchidaceae

SYNONYMS: *Habenaria psycodes* (L.) Spreng. var. *grandiflora* (Bigel.) Gray *Habenaria fimbriata* (Ait.) R. Br.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 5-12 dm.; flowering June-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to, and often confused with, the more frequent *Platanthera psycodes* (Small Purple Fringed Orchid), but much larger in height and in dimensions of the flower parts, and also blooming about 2 weeks earlier. Poorly preserved material and incomplete specimens are difficult to determine accurately. Depauperate plants of *P. grandiflora* are about the same height as large specimens of *P. psycodes*. Occasional albino forms somewhat resemble *P. blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid) or *P. leucophaea* (Prairie Fringed Orchid). Rare forms with entire lips simulate *P. peramoena* (Purple Fringeless Orchid).

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to N.B., s. Ont., MI, and e. MN, s. to NJ, PA, and OH, and in the high Appalachians s. to NC and TN.

STATE RANGE: ASHTABULA CO.: Orwell, 29 July 1889, E.E. Bogue (OS); along Pymatuning R., S. Wayne Twp., 14 Aug. 1928, L.E. Hicks (OS, 2 sheets).
PORTAGE CO.: Garrettsville, 27 July 1913, R.J. Webb (OS).

HABITAT: A variety of wet situations in sun or semi-shade in neutral or subacidic substrates; alder thickets; swamp woods; wet meadows; shrub borders of bogs.

HAZARDS: Alteration of water supply; picking of the flowers; digging of plants by wildflower gardeners.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor. It does not transplant successfully.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens; press the specimen carefully to preserve the shape of the lip.

COMMENTS: This species probably is extirpated from the state. It should be difficult to overlook the large, brilliant-colored flower spikes. The areas in the state from which it had been collected in the past have now been altered drastically. Recent searches for it in that region have been unsuccessful.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

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

Stoutamire, W.P. 1974. Relationships of the purple-fringed orchids *Platanthera psycodes* and *P. grandiflora*. *Brittonia* 26: 42-58.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 3/1985 Allison W. Cusick