

PLATANThERA HOOKERI (Torr. ex Gray) Lindl.
Hooker's Orchid

FAMILY: Orchidaceae

SYNONYMS: *Habenaria hookeri* Torr. ex Gray.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 0.5-2.5 dm.; flowering late May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Easily confused with Large Round-leaved Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*). The subtle shapes of the flower parts of these species are often destroyed by pressing. In addition to flower shapes being different, *P. hookeri* blooms 2-3 weeks earlier than *P. orbiculata* and the flowers are greener in color. The two species occasionally grow together. Non-flowering plants of *P. hookeri* somewhat resemble non-flowering plants of Twaybade (*Liparis* sp.) and Showy Orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*).

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to s. Man., s. to JN, PA, OH, n. IN, n. IL, and ne. IA.

STATE RANGE: ERIE CO.: Castalia Ridge, 18 June 1893, H. Schoepfle (BGSU); Margaretta Ridge, Castalia, 18 June 1893, H. Schoepfle (BGSU). FAIRFIELD CO.: Surgar Grove, 23 May 1891, W.C. Werner (OS). GEAUGA CO.: Little Mt., Chardon, 16 May 1896, L. Kurtz (CLM). LAKE CO.: near Painesville, 19 June 1883, W.C. Werner (OS); Painesville, June 1886, W.C. Werner (CLM); Gildersleeve Mt., 26 May 1897, collector unknown (CLM); Willoughby, 26 June 1897, collector unknown (CLM); rich woods near Kirtland, 26 June 1897, L.D. Stair (CLM); Gildersleeve Mt., 26 June 1897, collector unknown (CLM). LORAIN CO.: Black R. near Oberlin, 17 Apr. 1886, W. Whitney (OC); Chance Creek banks, 30 May 1892, A.E. Ricksecker (OC); Elyria 15 May 1896, M.E. Day (OC). MEDINA CO.: Whips Ledge, Hinkley, 30 May 1896, J.R. Watson (OS). Braun (1967) also reports this species from Ashtabula County, but no specimens supporting this record have been located.

HABITAT: In semi-shade in coniferous woods, especially in well-drained soil of a sandy texture; occasionally reported from beech-sugar maple woods.

HAZARDS: Closing of the forest canopy; trampling and compaction of soil.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Because of the close similarity to Large Round-leaved Orchid (see Similar species), all reports should be verified for accuracy; care should be taken in pressing to preserve the delicate flower parts.

COMMENTS: Though this species has not been reported in this century in Ohio, it should be sought in northern Ohio. The habitats exists in that part of the state and the species' close resemblance to Large Round-leaved Orchid may have caused it to be overlooked.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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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.



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