

# Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

## White Adder's-mouth (*Malaxis monophyllos* var *brachypoda* (Gray) Fernald)



This can be a very challenging orchid to find. It is found in moist woods, wet meadows, fens and bogs but the choice habitat is the shaded portions of the black spruce and tamarack bogs. The range extends from the south-east in a broad diagonal band to the north-west including bogs adjacent to The Pas. In 2003 we found a colony along a stream at Setting Lake just south of Thompson.

Single stems arise from a small corm with a few fibrous roots. A single leaf, approximately twice as long as it is broad, clasps the stem and encloses the lower portion of the stem with a sheath. The flower inflorescence is in the form of a spike often with a large number of florets. Each flower is white to greenish white and is best observed with a hand lense. Look for this orchid through the month of July. All three of the *Malaxis* species found in Manitoba can be found in bloom at the same time. They share the same requirements for habitat, thus if one is found, a diligent search for the others may be fruitful.

The scientific name originates from the Greek *brachs* meaning "short" and *podion* or "foot" referring to the short stalk of the individual flower.