

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Bog adder's-mouth (*Malaxis paludosa* (Linnaeus) Swartz)



All three of the *Malaxis* species that occur in Manitoba are uncommon but without question *paludosa* is the most difficult to find. It is rare throughout its range and is inconspicuous because of its size and colour. At best it may reach 15cms in height, however the plants I have observed have been less than 10cms. The minute flowers are yellow-green in colour. The leaves, no more than 25 mm in length, are found only at the base of the plant clasping a small pseudobulb. The favoured habitat also contributes to the difficulty of finding this plant. "*Paludosa*" is taken from the Latin "*paludosus*" meaning swampy, referring to the usual habitat of this orchid. It prefers moist, shaded or partially open locations in black spruce and tamarack bogs. In Manitoba, very few recorded observations of this orchid have been made. "Lady Luck" will definitely have to be with you as you search for this orchid!