

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Green fringed orchid; ragged orchid (*Platanthera lacera* (Michaux) G. Don)



In his book, *The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida*, Carlyle A. Luer describes this orchid as one of the most common orchids of northeast North America. In Manitoba, this orchid can be rather difficult to find even in ideal habitat and normally occurs in the southeast portion of the province. However, while conducting a botanical inventory of Hecla Island on Lake Winnipeg a number of years ago, Dr. Karen Johnson recorded this species. A colony was found in an open black spruce and tamarack sphagnum bog not far from Hammer Lake at the northern end of the island.

In the Agassiz Provincial Forest, a small colony grows along a trail through a black spruce and tamarack forest leading to an open bog, while another colony is located in the open bog itself. The plants growing along the trail look very different from the plants in the open bog. The plants along the trail, have green flowers, the blossoms have short fringes and are loosely arranged on the inflorescence. The flowers of the plants in the open bog are a pale yellow-green colour, the fringes are long and the inflorescence has a large number of blossoms arranged closely on the spike. Companion orchids in this bog include *Arethusa bulbosa*, *Calopogon tuberosus* and a large population of *Pogonia ophioglossoides*.

Pollinators of this orchid include small Noctuid moths and *Hemaris thysbe*, the hummingbird clear-wing hawkmoth (*Stoutamire*).