

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Blunt-leaved rein orchid (*Platanthera obtusata* (Banks ex Pursh) Lindley)



The species name of this orchid is from the Latin *obtusatus*, "blunted" in reference to the single blunt leaf of this species.

Widely distributed from the south-east corner of the province to the northern border with Nunavut. In the south this species is commonly found in moist black spruce and tamarack bogs while further north it also occurs in drier coniferous forests. At Churchill this orchid grows in profusion in moist boggy locations and with less frequency on the open Tundra along the coast of the Hudson Bay. In dark shaded locations it is most often found as individual plants with the single leaf growing low near the ground, clasping the flowering stem. In open sunlit areas of the forest, robust clumps of several stems may be found. The flowering stem may have a few to many small yellowish green flowers. The ubiquitous mosquito is a pollinator of the blunt-leaved rein orchid. Mosquitoes carrying the bright yellow pollinia in the dimly lit habitat of the bog have been described as bearing lighted headlamps.

From mid-June to mid-July, look for this orchid in moist sphagnum rich black spruce and tamarack bogs in the province. Usually if one plant is found, others will be nearby.