

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Western Spotted Coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata* (Rafinesque) Rafinesque var *occidentalis* (Lindley) Ames)



Of the two varieties of *Corallorhiza maculata* that are found in Manitoba, variety " *occidentalis*" is the most common. It can be distinguished from variety "*maculata*" by close examination of the inflorescence under magnification. Variety " *occidentalis*" has floral bracts that are forked, 1.0 to 4.5mm long and 1.0 to 2.0mm wide. The other distinguishing feature, the lower portion of the middle lobe of the lip, is strongly dilated with the ratio of the widest width to base width greater than 1.5.

Corallorhiza maculata var *occidentalis* may be found throughout the southern 2/3rds of the province, blooming from mid-June to mid-July. Look for it in mixed forests or dry coniferous forests. Provincial Parks like Turtle Mountains, Duck Mountains and Birds Hill provide excellent habitat for this species.

Both variety "*maculata*" and " *occidentalis*", are found in a variation of 3 basic colour forms. The most common form has a flesh-coloured stem, sepals and petals, with white lip spotted in red; another form has a red stem, sepals and petals, with a white lip spotted in red; while a less common form has a yellow stem, sepals and petals with a white unspotted lip. Intermediate forms occur as well.