

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Small Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera psycodes* (Linnaeus) Lindley)



Growing in a moist deciduous forest, this beautiful orchid blooms around the 3rd week of July. It stands to about 40 cms. tall and is easy to see in the grasses and small shrubs that compose the under story of this habitat. A magnifying glass will aid you in the appreciation of the delicate blossoms. The scientific name *psycodes* comes from the Greek Psyche the mythological lover of cupid, represented as a fairy with wings.

Stoutamire has identified two different insects that have been found carrying pollinia from this species; a hawk moth and a small brown skipper butte.

The entire population of this orchid known to exist in Manitoba is in a single colony at the extreme south-east corner of the province. The gravel road bisecting the colony starts at Provincial Highway # 12 less than 100 meters before you reach the Canada Customs building at the U.S. border. Prior to the construction of this gravel road, the population of this orchid was much larger than it is now. Found commonly in eastern North America, this Manitoba location is at the extreme north-west portion of its range.