

Yadon's Piperia Recovery Workshop
January 27, 2005

**Identification of Yadon's
piperia (*Piperia yadonii*)**

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Generalized Orchid Flower Structure

From Dressler, R. L. 1993. Phylogeny and classification of the orchid family. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

- Flowers bilaterally symmetrical – one and only one way to divide the flower into two mirror-image halves
- Inferior ovary
- Three petaloid (petal-like) sepals
- Three petals, one (lip) differentiated from, usually broader than the others
- Sepals, petals sometimes collectively referred to as “tepals”
- A single stamen (usually), more or less fused to the pistil

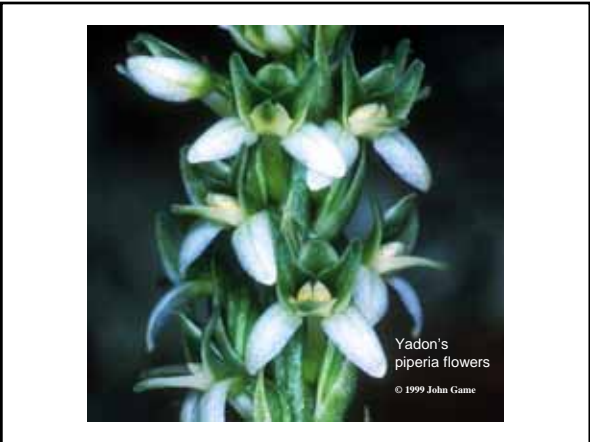


**Distinguishing characteristics of
Yadon's piperia**

- Spur short, 3-4 mm long
- Flowers conspicuously bicolored; upper three tepals white and green, lower more or less whitish

The above two characteristics serve to separate *P. yadonii* from all other *Piperia* species occurring within its range

- Lateral (upper) petals falcate (sickle-shaped)
- Lateral petals white on outside edge, green on inner edge
- Flowers dense, congested in narrowly cylindrical raceme (flower cluster)
- Narrowly triangular lip



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Distinguishing characteristics of other *Piperia* species potentially occurring within the range of Yadon's piperia

Short spur, flowers not bicolored:

P. leptopetala (no photo)

- Flowers green
- Spur 4-9 mm
- Lip narrowly lanceolate (lance-shaped), narrower than in *P. yadonii*
- Lateral petals long and very narrow, narrower than in *P. yadonii*, not falcate

P. unalascensis

- Flowers usually green or greenish, sometimes whitish
- Raceme usually relatively open

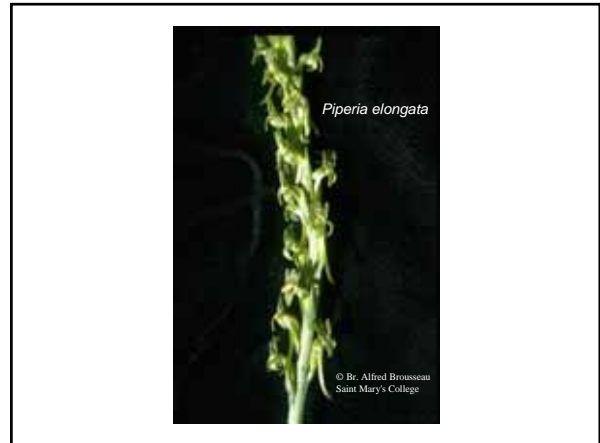
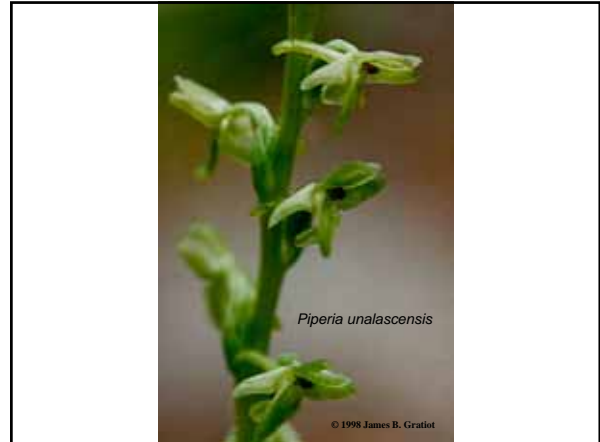
Long spur, flowers not bicolored:

P. michaelii

- Flowers green or yellow-green
- Lip ovate, broad
- Lateral petals not falcate

P. elongata

- Flowers green
- Raceme often more open than *P. yadonii*



Distinguishing characteristics of other *Piperia* species potentially occurring within the range of Yadon's piperia (continued)

Long spur, flowers bicolored:

P. elegans

- Sepals, lateral petals white with green midvein
- Lateral petals not falcate

P. transversa

- Spur straight, more or less horizontal
- Sepals, lateral petals white to yellowish with green midvein



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