

## *Hexastylis arifolium* Little Brown Jug

A short (up to 6") evergreen perennial plant with pale green, arrowhead-shaped leaves (up to 8" long) which are marked with dark green veins and margins. Dull purple to bronze, glabrous, flask-shaped flowers are formed on underground stems between March and May; these are often hidden from view. The flower (up to 1") is comprised of three fused calyces containing the stamens and pistil. When formed, the seeds have fleshy appendages called elaisomes which attract ants. The ant carries the seed and elaisome to its nest, feeds on the elaisome and discards the seed which can then be left to germinate. *H. arifolium* is slow growing, in clusters spreading by rhizomes in woodlands containing rich humus, acid soils.

County level distribution of *Hexastylis arifolium*

