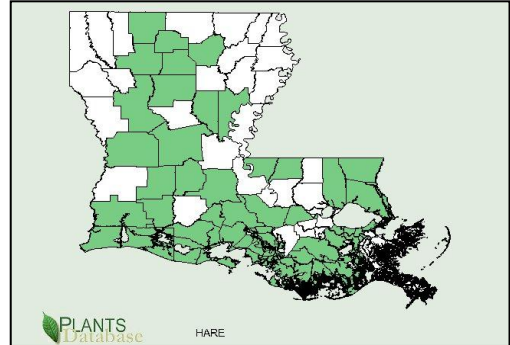


Native Orchid of the Month—September

Habenaria repens (waterspider bog orchid)

Water-spider orchids (*Habenaria repens*) appear as one- to two-foot high stalks protruding from the surface of plant vegetation. On close examination, the stalks are covered with greenish white flowers that have the sepals and petals together, but divided into small elongated lobes that are reminiscent of spiders—thus the name.

Water-spider orchids occur in marshes, wet meadows, and bogs, margins of streams, ditches, and ponds; commonly an emergent aquatic in shallow water and in floating mats alone or with other vegetation.



They spread by runners as well as seeds. They are erect, growing to one or two feet tall. The leaves are thick and succulent, two to nine inches long and up to one inch wide. They are narrowly lance-shaped, tapering to a narrow point. The most conspicuous part is its stalk is the flowers that occur at the top of the plant. The small flowers are pale green, up to 3/4 inch across.

Flowering is primarily summer

through fall, sporadically between April and December.

Reproducing both sexually and vegetatively via stolons, this orchid will often form dense colonies. During the evening and nighttime hours, these orchids' flowers emit a very powerful fragrance, apparently to attract night-flying moths.

