

GREEN ADDER'S-MOUTH ORCHID

Malaxis unifolia Michx.

Synonyms: none

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FAC++ FL-FAC



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Field Description: Small orchid with only a single, round leaf, this situated halfway up the stem. Flowers are produced on a raceme. The many small, greenish flowers have linear petals and an ovate to cordate lip. Fruits are capsules, broader toward the tip.

Similar Species: The single leaf and small flowers of this species are very distinctive. The Florida adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis spicata*) is a more robust wetland plant with two ovate leaves and larger, often orange, flowers.

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

Habitat: Moist hammocks, ravines and mesic flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Spring; February-April (May)

green adder's-mouth orchid

Malaxis unifolia

Range-wide Distribution: Canada south to Texas and Florida. In Florida, from the Panhandle south Hernando County.

Conservation Status: Listed state-endangered and tracked as vulnerable, this species is vouchered from 10 counties in the Panhandle south to Hernando County.

Protection and Management: Protect hardwood forests from disturbance, protect from collection.

References: Brown, P.M. 2002. Wild Orchids of Florida. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.