



# Large Round-leaved Orchid

This orchid is thought of as rare in Manitoba because it appears sporadically or in isolated groups. In fact, their preferred habitat of coniferous bogs and pine forests ranges from central Manitoba to the south-eastern corner of the province.

Without closer inspection, it might be mistaken for the Hooker's Orchid. Unlike the other, the Large Round-leaved Orchid features one or more bracts on the stem, situated between the inflorescence and leaves. Also, the lip's club-shaped spur thickens at the tip rather than at the middle.

The stem, including inflorescence, stands 20 - 60 cm high. The roots are smooth-surfaced and succulent. Two broadly oval-shaped leaves (6 to 15 cm long and wide) sit opposite to each other at the base of the stem and fall flush to the ground.

The spiked inflorescence (6 - 20 cm long, 3 to 6 cm wide) holds 6 - 30 blooms that are white with streaks of pale green. Each flower consists of a rounded dorsal sepal (3.7 - 6 mm long, 4 - 6.5 mm wide); tapering ovate lateral sepals (7 - 10 mm long, 4 - 5.2 mm wide at the broadest point); tapered ovate petals (5.5 - 7 mm long, 2.2 - 3 mm wide at the broadest point); 0.5 - 1.5 cm long bracts; an 8 - 15 mm long, 2 mm wide lip that narrows to a dull tip; and a 2 - 2.5 cm long spur, rounded and thicker at its end.

Flowers are found from mid-July to mid-August. *Autographa ampla* and *Plusia balluca* moths are known pollinators of this orchid.

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Large Round-leaved Orchid  
*Platanthera orbiculata*  
Photo by Bud Ewacha

**(C.N.P.S.) Conserve Native  
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**C**NPS president Bud Ewacha aims to present a specimen of this plant to the Manitoba Museum's Botany Department for verification, next summer. If registered, it will bring the total of orchid species in our province to 42.

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