



Flat-petaled Yellow Lady's Slipper

It would be easy to pass the Flat-petaled Yellow Lady's Slipper as just another Yellow Lady's Slipper, ... at least until keener inspection.

Similarities are many. However, the petals of the F-PYLS are, except for the occasional, slight curvature, almost completely straight. Their colour is a ruddy bronze instead of the YLS's frequent green-streaked yellow. Another distinction is the spray of red spots visible at the back of the pouch's opening.

In all other ways, though, F-PYLS is identical to *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens*. It stands 20 - 60 cm high with 3 to 5 alternating oval or lance-shaped leaves (5 to 15 cm long and 5 cm wide). The leaves are heavily veined and sparsely haired (hairs are gland-tipped), and can be an irritant to sensitive skin.

Stems generally hold one flower (supported by a long floral bract) that features a 3.5 to 6 cm long yellow lip and 3 - 8 cm long lanceolate sepals. Petals are narrower by comparison. The hefty seed capsule is quite conspicuous in winter.

Blooms are seen from June to mid-July. This plant is extremely rare in Manitoba, and was once considered to have been found only in Newfoundland. Preferred habitats are ditches and banks in areas with a high lime content.

As a final note, the roots of these plants were at one time used in tonics, but consumption of such in large doses is now known to be hazardous.

If you should encounter this plant, please report its location to Bud Ewacha of CNPS at bud_ge@escape.ca.



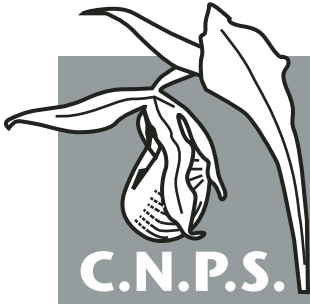
Flat-petaled Yellow Lady's Slipper
Cypripedium calceolus, var. *planipetalum*
Photo by Bud Ewacha

**(C.N.P.S.) Conserve Native
Plants Society Inc.**

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It's Time to Renew Your CNPS Membership

Please note that our calendar year begins on January 1 and ends December 31, 2009. Please remember to renew your Conserve Native Plants Society membership for the coming year. Your memberships help ensure that valuable research continues for the preservation of our natural heritage!

Visit CNPS at the Manitoba Orchid Society Show

Conserve Native Plants Society will host a conservation display at the annual Manitoba Orchid Society Show, to be held on March 27, 28 and 29, 2009 at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory.

This is a great opportunity to get your questions about Manitoba's native plants answered by Bud Ewacha, and possibly learn something new from our informative display.

Admission is \$5.00, and children under the age of fourteen (accompanied by an adult) are admitted free. Join us and get a breath of spring!