

GOODYERA TESSELATA Lodd.
Checkered Rattlesnake-plantain

FAMILY: Orchidaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial 1.0-3.5 dm.; flowering July-early August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is superficially similar to all other species of *Goodyera*. Case (1964) indicated that it is "generally misidentified". Poorly preserved herbarium material especially is difficult to determine. It may be distinguished from the frequent *Goodyera pubescens* (Downy Rattlesnake-plantain) by its paler, bluish leaves, elongate spike, and few-flowered inflorescence. The two species may share the same habitat on rare occasions.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to e. Man., s. to NY, MD, PA, OH, MI, n. WI, and ne MN.

STATE RANGE: ASHTABULA CO.: five plants, Phelps Run, 20 Aug. 1929, L.E. Hicks (OS, 2 sheets).

HABITAT: On the floor of coniferous woods; in well-drained, acidic substrates of a fine texture; tolerant of deep shade.

HAZARDS: Prolonged sunlight; high summer temperatures; trampling and compaction of the soil; all members of this genus are dug for use in terraria.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Flowering plants required for identification; avoid over-collecting

COMMENTS: This genus has an unusual life history. It grows for many years as an underground, probably saprophytic, organism. The basal rosettes eventually are produced and also persist for another period of years. After the flowering stalk appears, this section of the plant dies and the underground rhizome produces another basal rosette. The entire period from germination to anthesis may take a decade or more.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Brackley, F.E. 1985. The orchids of New Hampshire. *Rhodora* 87: 1-117.

Case, F.W. 1964. Orchids of the western Great Lakes region. Cranbrook Institute of Science Bull. No. 48, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 147 p.

Luer, C.A. 1975. The native orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida. New York Botanical Garden, New York, NY. 361 p.

Stoutamire, W.P. 1967. Seeds and seedlings of native orchids. *Mich. Bot.* 3: 159-175.



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