

Notes

Malaxis monophyllos var. *brachypoda*, One-leaved Malaxis, new to the Northwest Territories, Canada

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The orchid, *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda*, is reported from Yellowknife, this being the first record for the Northwest Territories and an extension of about 650 kilometers to the northeast from the nearest population in northern British Columbia.

Key Words: *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda*, One-leaved Malaxis, Northwest Territories.

The orchid *Malaxis monophyllos* (L.) Swartz var. *brachypoda* (A. Gray) Morris & Eames (*M. brachypoda* (A. Gray) Fern.) [One-leaved Malaxis] (Figure 1) is known across Canada from Newfoundland and southern Labrador to British Columbia and south in the United States to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Colorado and California. In Canada, it has been considered rare in the provinces of Newfoundland (Bouchard et al. 1991), Nova Scotia (Maher et al. 1978), New Brunswick (Hinds 1983), Manitoba (White and Johnson 1980), Saskatchewan (Maher et al. 1979), Alberta (Packer and Bradley 1984) and British Columbia (Douglas et al. 2002).

On 13 August 2001 the second author observed several plants of One-leaved Malaxis in a Black Spruce swampy area adjacent to the Frame Lake Trail in Yellowknife (62°27'N 114°21'W). One specimen was collected and sent to the senior author for verification and has been deposited in the Agriculture and Agri-food Herbarium (DAO) in Ottawa. This is the first record of this taxon, *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda*, from the Northwest Territories. It is an extension of the known range to the northeast of about 650 kilometers from the Liard Hotsprings in northern British Columbia, Mile 396 Alaska Highway, where it was collected by A. F. Szczawinski on 21 July 1961 (DAO). A copy of the map in Porsild and Cody (1980) with the addition of the Yellowknife site is provided (Figure 2). This taxon is an addition to the *Rare Vascular Plants in the Northwest Territories* (McJannet et al. 1995).

The nominate variety of this plant, *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *monophyllos*, is known mainly from Europe but has also been recorded from coastal Alaska. It can be

distinguished from var. *brachypoda* by the non-resupinate flowers, the lip being therefore in an uppermost position above the column. In var. *brachypoda* the lip is lowermost due to a twist of 180° in the ovary stalk.

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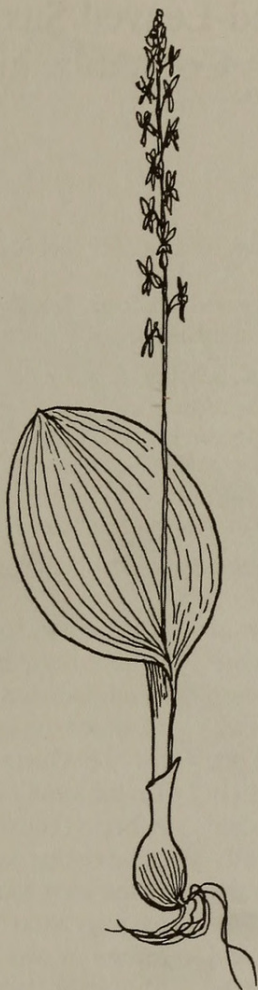


FIGURE 1. *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda* (drawn by Brenda Carter).

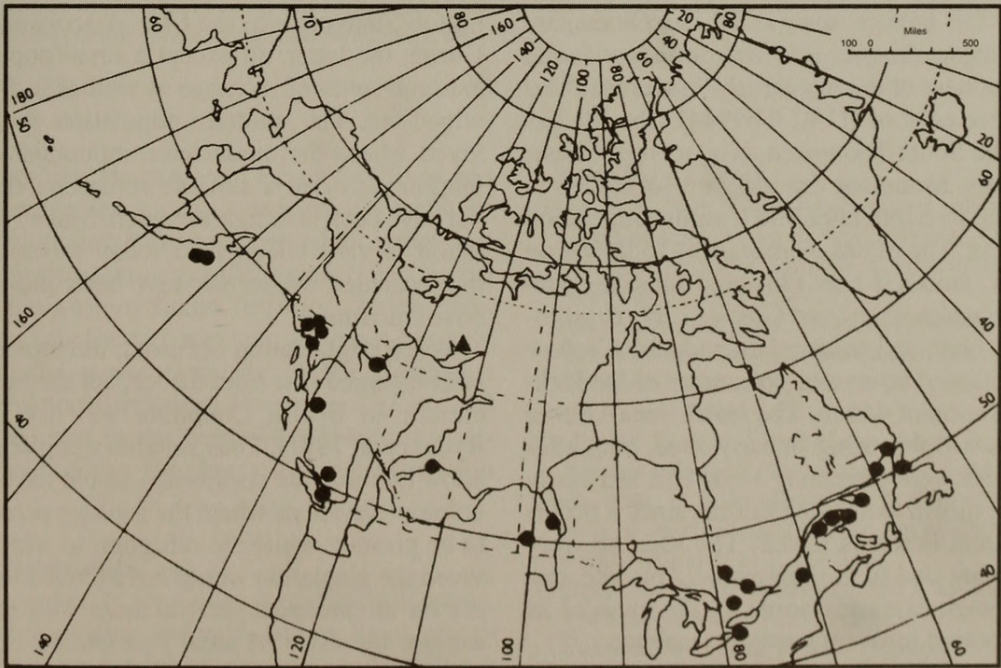


FIGURE 2. *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda* from Porsild and Cody (1980) with addition of the Yellowknife site (solid triangle).



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