

# Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

## Auricled twayblade (*Listera auriculata* Wiegand)



The species name is from the Latin *auricula* "the lobe of the ear" in reference to the ear like projections curving around the base of the column.

This orchid has been recorded only once in Manitoba, thus it is difficult to indicate the type of habit it prefers in our province. Characteristically, it prefers disturbed sandy soils along the banks of streams and rivers above the flood plain, in deposited leaf litter often associated with alders. Each plant is a single stem to 18 cm high including the inflorescence. Two heart shaped leaves are located directly opposite of each other approximately half way up the stem. The flowers, 8 – 16 per stem, are a light blue-green with a relatively large lip for the size of plant.

Only one specimen has been collected in Manitoba as a herbarium specimen and that was many years ago. Watch for it while botanizing in the western portion of the province from the Duck Mountains to the Pas, especially if you are near rivers or streams prone to spring flooding. Any suspected finding should be reported to the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre.