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Common Name: CHAPMAN'S FRINGED ORCHID

Scientific Name: *Platanthera chapmanii* (Small) Luer

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Platanthera* X *chapmanii* (Small) Luer, *Blephariglottis chapmanii* Small

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

Rarity Ranks: G2/S1

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: OBL

Description: Perennial **herb** 12 - 30 inches (30 - 77 cm) tall, with 2 - 4 stem leaves. **Leaves** 6 - 10 inches (15 - 26) long, $\frac{3}{8}$ - 1 inches (1 - 3 cm) wide, sheathing the stem and decreasing in size to the flower spike. **Flower cluster** a dense spike at the top of the stem with 30 - 75 bright orange flowers. **Flower** $\frac{7}{8}$ inch (2 cm) long, not including spur. **Lateral sepals** oval, held backward along the side of the flower; one **upright sepal** overlaps with 2 narrow, fringed **petals** to form a hood over the center of the flower. **Lip petal** oval with a deep, showy, delicate fringe. **Spur** about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.75 - 2 cm) long, extends behind the flower and is about the same length as the **ovary**.

Similar Species: Chapman's fringed orchid is a species created by the natural crossing of orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) and orange crested orchid (*P. cristata*); it closely resembles both ancestors but can be distinguished by spur length. The spur of orange fringed orchid ($\frac{7}{8}$ - $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch) is much longer than its ovary; the spur of orange crested orchid ($\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch) is clearly shorter than its ovary.

Related Rare Species: Yellow fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integra*, Special Concern) occurs in wet savannas and pitcherplant bogs in 5 Coastal Plain counties. It grows to 2 feet tall. The lower edge of the lip is slightly toothed but not fringed (see photo and drawing).

Also see on this website: southern white fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*), large purple fringed-orchid (*P. grandiflora*), monkeyface orchid (*P. integrilabia*), and purple fringeless orchid (*P. peramoena*).

Habitat: Wet savannas, wet pine flatwoods, hillside seeps.

Life History: Chapman's fringed orchid is pollinated by large butterflies, primarily swallowtails, whose long tongues are adapted to probing the long, nectar-containing spur of fringed orchids. During the process of probing for nectar, sticky packets of pollen adhere to the front of the insects' heads and are brushed off onto the stigmas of flowers that are subsequently visited. Flowers must be cross-pollinated for fruit to set. The dust-like seeds are dispersed by wind and gravity.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late July–September).

Range: Georgia, Florida, and Texas.

Threats: Conversion of habitat to pine plantations and agriculture; fire suppression; ditching, draining, and filling wetlands.

Georgia Conservation Status: One population on private land in Charlton County is known. Plants were also seen in Thomas County in 1903 but this population has not been found again.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years during the growing season. Avoid logging and bedding or other mechanical disturbance of soils and ground vegetation. Avoid draining, ditching, or plowing firebreaks in wetlands.

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Author of Species Account: Linda G. Chafin

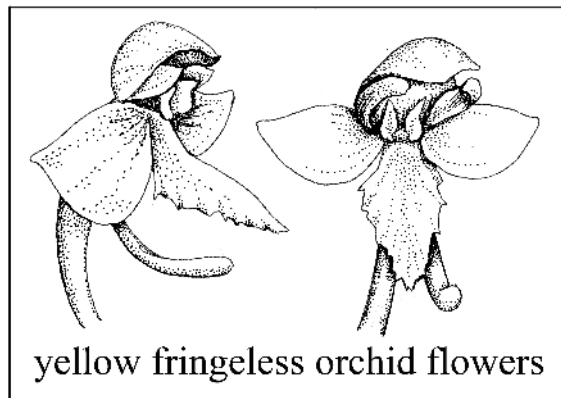
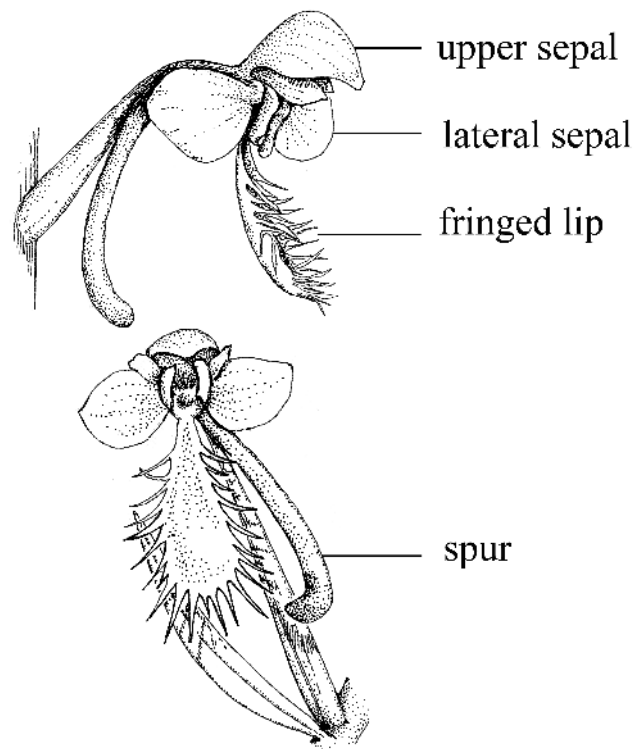
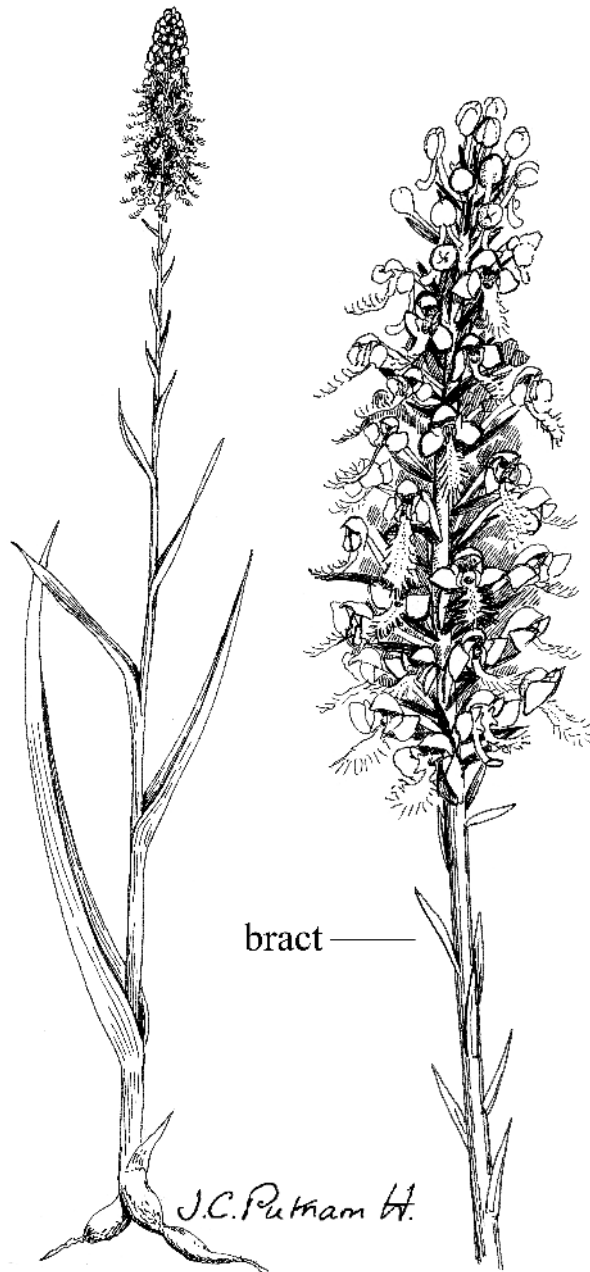
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L. Chafin, July 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

CHAPMAN'S FRINGED ORCHID

Platanthera chapmanii





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YELLOW FRINGELESS ORCHID
Platanthera integra