

## LITTLE CLUB-SPUR ORCHID

*Platanthera clavellata* (Michx.) Luer

**Synonyms:** *Gymnadeniopsis clavellata* (Michx.) Rydb.; *Habenaria clavellata* (Michx.) Spreng.

**Family:** Orchidaceae (orchid)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



Bruce A. Sorrie

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with a ridged stem 10 - 30 cm tall. **Leaves** 10 - 18 cm long; 1 - 2 leaves below mid-stem plus a few small bracts above. **Flowers** about 6 mm across, pale green; 3 - 15 flowers in a short, dense spike at the top of the stem; 2 **sepals** spreading, 2 **petals** pointed forward; **lip** rectangular, 3-lobed or wavy at the tip but not fringed; **spur** extends back and down to an enlarged tip. **Fruit** an oval capsule.

**Similar Species:** Southern rein orchid (*Platanthera flava*), state-threatened, is 0.6 m tall, with 2 - 3 leaves at midstem. Flowers are yellow-green; lip is rounded, not fringed, and has 2 small lobes and a tiny "fin" at the base; spur extends back to an enlarged tip.

**Related Rare Species:** Five other species of *Platanthera* are state-listed: *P. blephariglottis* (white flowers, fringed lip), *P. nivea* (white flowers, lip uppermost), *P. ciliaris* (orange flowers, fringed lip), *P. cristata* (orange flowers, fringed lip), and *P. integra* (orange flowers, slightly toothed lip).

**Habitat:** Wet hammocks, floodplain forests and stream banks.

**little club-spur orchid**

*Platanthera clavellata*

**Best Survey Season:** Summer; June - September.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Newfoundland west to MN and south to FL and E TX.

**Conservation Status:** None of the 3 FL populations are protected.

**Protection and Management:** Avoid logging in floodplains and stream corridors. Preserve natural hydrology of streams. Control exotic pest plants in floodplains.

**References:** Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1979, Gupton and Swope 1986, Luer 1972, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

