

Northern Twayblade

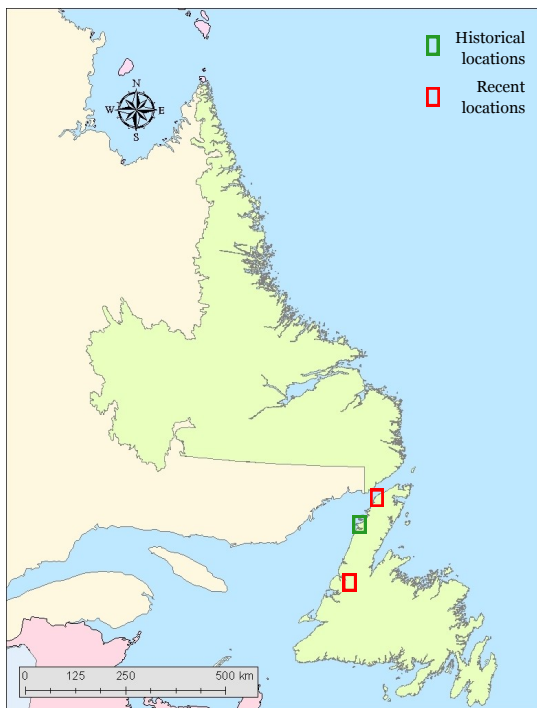
(*Listera borealis*)

- The Northern Twayblade is a small perennial orchid with herbaceous stems.
- Flowers are green with a dark-green to metallic-blue stripe running down the middle of the labellum.
- Flowering occurs in June and the plant dies back fully in the fall.



© Michael Burzynski

Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

This species generally grows in mossy coniferous or mixed hardwood forests. It prefers moist areas with acidic soils and is often found along streams. This species is found in most provinces and the northwest United States, but is not known to occur in the Maritime provinces. In Newfoundland, these orchids are found in Eddie's Cove East and Lomond, with a historic population in Eddie's Cove West.

Population Trends

Not enough information is available to estimate trends for this species. The observed size of the population in Lomond has fluctuated dramatically since its discovery; from only one individual identified initially, to a maximum of 64 plants. A recent search (2013) in Eddie's Cove East found 21 flowering and 6 non-flowering plants.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Threats to the species include suppression of forest regeneration by moose, herbivory by native and introduced gastropods, competition with invasive plants, and disturbance or removal of plants by orchid hunters and photographers.

Special Significance

This species is rare in the province. It is endemic to North America.

You can help protect the Northern Twayblade:

- Support habitat protection for rare plants.
- If you see a flower, take a picture instead of picking it.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

(709) 637-2025
www.gov.nl.ca/env