

Native Orchid of the Month—January

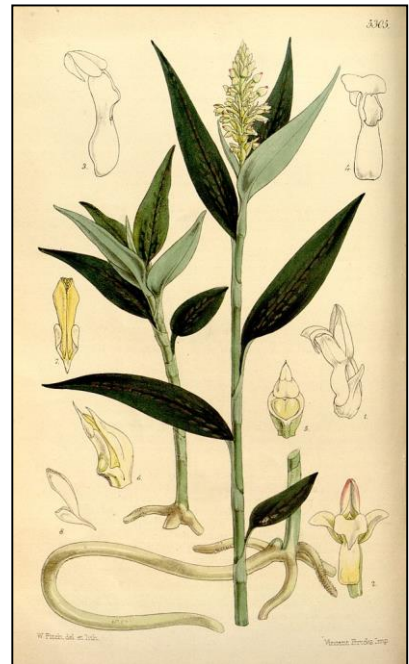
Platythelys querceticola
(jug orchid)

Platythelys querceticola, jug orchid, is found only in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida in the United States, but is fairly common in Caribbean and Central and South America, occurring in cloud forests at in Venezuela and Peru at elevations of 1500 to 2000 feet. In states along the Gulf Coast, it is found in areas of swampy humus and hardwood forests. It flowers from September to early March.



The plants are creeping with roots at each rhizome node; the green stems are rarely branched and succulent. The leaves, green sometimes with whitish veins, usually 3 to 6, are spirally arranged around an erect stem that is usually 5 to 12 inches tall.

Flowers are white to greenish, somewhat tubular and glabrous, in a 4-inch long inflorescence. The sepals are veined, margins entire, apex obtuse.



The jug orchid is rare within its range in the United States.

