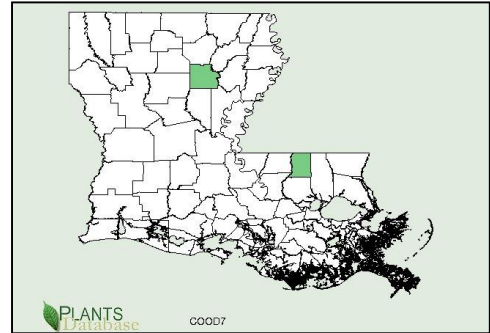


Native Orchid of the Month—October

*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*

(autumn coralroot)

*Corallorhiza odontorhiza* (autumn coralroot) ranges across all of Eastern and Midwestern United States and Canada. Coral-roots can be recognized by their saprophytic habit—plants with no chlorophyll and leaves reduced to small scales—and their erect, unbranched flower clusters (a raceme) bearing small, typically orchid-shaped flowers. The stems are yellow, greenish, or purplish brown with a base strongly thickened, bulbous.



Flowering stalks are 4 to 8 inches tall with 5 to 15 flowers which appear late in growing season (August to October). The petals are about ¼ inch long, reddish-purple above and with a cream to white lower lip with purple around the edges and small purple spots. The lower lip is not lobed or toothed, but may have a slightly ragged or wavy lower margin.



The autumn coralroot’s habitat is humus-rich soils in deciduous hardwood stands and conifer plantations.

The species’ status is threatened or endangered throughout most of

its range.

