

White Fringed Orchid

Platanthera blephariglottis

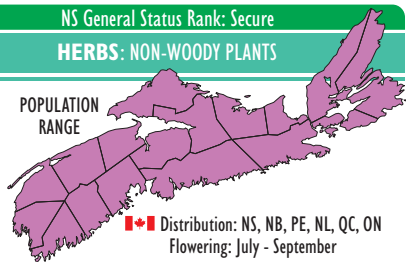
NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS



© SEAN BLANEY

POPULATION
RANGE



■ Distribution: NS, NB, PE, NL, QC, ON
Flowering: July - September

SIZE: 20-50 cm tall.

LEAVES: Lower leaves lance-shaped, alternatively arranged on the stem, 20 cm long and 2 cm wide. The upper leaves are reduced.

STEM: Smooth and slender.

FLOWERS: A dense cluster of 20-30 white flowers (inflorescence) at the top of the stem, 5-15 cm long and 4-5 cm wide. Each flower has a fringed bottom lip (8-11 mm long) and a long slender spur. The flowers smell faintly of cloves.

FRUITS: Capsules.

NOTES: Also known as *Habenaria blephariglottis*.



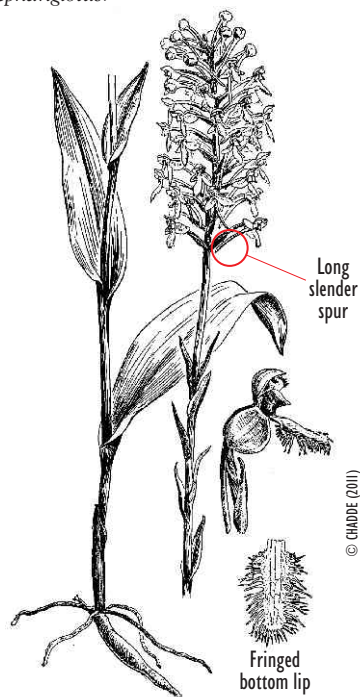
Eyelash-like fringed bottom lip

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Flowers with long, slender spur

© MARK ELDEKIN



Long
slender
spur

© CHADDE (2011)

Fringed
bottom lip



Monarch Butterfly feeding on the flowers

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU

Habitat:

Semi-open forest, peaty hollows in wetlands (bogs, acidic swamps) and dry barrens.

Interesting point: Part of the scientific name, *blephariglottis*, comes from the latin word "*blepharis*" which means eyelash. This is due to the fringed or ragged part of the flower resembling an eyelash.

Similar species: None