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#### About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

#### MOTES ON THE ROOTS OF SOME NEW ENGLAND ORGHIDS

In the course of studies of our native orchids I became deeply interested in the variety of root structure that they show. Each comis has its own characteristics and these are so distinctive that it is easy to name the genus (and usually the sub-nemus) on the basis of root form alone. This paper is a preliminary study, in no sense final, of the roots of New England orchids. It makes no pretense to anything except pointing out a useful diagnostic feature which has been frequently overlooked.

Orchids are remarkable among plants for the extrese specialization of the floral structure. The roots are no less highly individualized. In the first place, orchids are quite without root-hairs. They depend upon mycorrhizal fungi to perform the functions that in other plants are usually taken care of by root-hairs. Some tropical orchids have lost their roots entirely, but all of the species of the northern U.S. have roots, which serve as anchors for the plants and as a means of carrying on the plant's life. All orchids are perennials and so they have within themselves the germ of future yearsh growth. This takes the form of a winter-bud, which is a conspicuous feature of the roots of many orchids. In addition to having this promise of the future, many orchids bring with them in their roots the story of the past.

In studying orchid root systems, three things should be observed:

a. The form of the roots; b. The number of roots; c. The position of the winter-bud.

The form of the root shows the greatest variation. It ranges from the cord-like about of Pogonia to the small compact globose corn of Arethuse. In number, the roots run from the single tuberoid of <u>Spirathes Beckii</u> to the very numerous roots of <u>Cypricedium</u>. The position of the winter-bud varies considerably. In some species it is very close to this year's stem, so that the plant remains almost stationary, while in others it is several inches away, so that the plant "marches" slowly but steadily along.

There are in New England about 50 species of crehids in 17 genera. Of these I have found 45 species in 16 genera. I have never observed the roots of <u>Habenaria obtusata</u>, nor have I found Amosia (Seranias of Gray's Hammal), <u>Habenaria pristata</u> (reported but once from New England), <u>H. leucophaea</u>, <u>Listera auriculata</u> nor <u>L. convallarioides</u>. The sketch of <u>Tipularia discolor</u>, which some older books record from New England, is based upon fresh material sent to me from Maryland by Prof. J. B. Egerton.

presented herewith are rather careful sketches to show the salient features of the root system of each genus and sub-genus of orchid found in New England, with the exceptions noted. The drawings were made from fresh living plants, collected in the field (except Arlectrum, which is from a photograph) and all are full size. Care has been taken to select typical plants for the illustrations. Critical notes on the genera and species follow:

CYPRIPEDIUM. All N.E. species have numerous coarsely fibrous roots, about 1/8 inch in diameter. The winter-pad is at the base of the stem, within the sheath. I am not able to distinguish the species on the basis of root form alone. (Fl. 1)

ORCHIS. O. rotundifolia (Fl. 5) has a root which extends almost horizontally from the base of the stem At the distal end is a small process or sear where the previous year's plant grew. From this root a few shoots extend. The winter-bud is near the base of the stem. Orchis spectabilis (Fl. 6) has a cluster of fleshy tuberoids, very like those of many species of Habenaria. The winter-bud is borne on one of these, about 1/2 inch from the base of the stem.

manches arise

HABENARIA. The roots of habenaria consist of a number of elongated tuberoids. Some species resemble Spiranthes, but they can be told at once from that genus by the position of the winter-buds. In Habenaria the winter-buds arise from one of the tubers, whereas in Spiranthes they are found at the base of the stem under the protecting sheaths. In Habenaria the buds are plainly visible during the flowering season, but in Spirathes they do not appear until autumn, although they may be found by stripping the leaves away carefully.

H. viridis var. bracteata (H. bracteata) is easily distinguished by its somewhat palmately-cleft tuberoids, with long tapering divisions. (Fl. 2) The winter-bud arises at the base of the stem.

H. flava. The winter-bud is at the base of the stem, as in the provious species, but the tuberoids are simple and undivided. (Fl. 2)

H. hyperbores. One long tapering tuberoid at the base of the stem (suggesting a tap-root) bears the winter-bud. I cannot distinguish H. Gilatata. (Fl. 2)

H. clavellata (Pl. 2) bears the winter-bud on a long spindle-shaped taboroid nearly at a right angle to the stem.

H. orbiculata (Fl. 2) the very similar to ... flava, but the two large orbicular basal leaves immediately distinguish this group from all others. I am unable to separate H. Hookeri or H. Macrophylla on the basis of root form. I am, incidentally, not wholly satisfied that the latter is a valid species.

H. ciliaris (Fl. 2) has two large carrot-shaped roots, one of which bears the winter-bud. H. blephariglottis is indistinguishable.

H. lacera (Pl. 4) has a cluster of tapering tuberoids with the winter-bad about 1/2 inch from the stem on one of them. H. fimbriata (Pl. 3), H. psycodes (Pl. 3), and the natural hybrids in this group show no distinctive characters.

(It may be objected that this study is useless because certain species cannot be distinguished solely by the roots. Practically, however, without some vegetative evidence, one is unlikely to discover the root at all. When the leaves are present, 0. spectabilis cannot be confused with R. lacero or M. flava with H. orbiculata. Actually, if an unflowered orchis is collected, it may be named with a fair degree of accuracy-- particularly if its habitat is known.)

POGONIA. Ames (Orchidaceae, Fase. VII) gives a good description:
"From the short vertical rhizome, roof-shoots extend widely in a
nearly horizontal plane, and eventually produce new plants. These
rooteshoots may be many feet long." (Fl. 5) I have traced these
cord-like root-shoots for more than 12 feet. At that point it
broke off, so I do not know how much longer it may have been.

ISOTRIA. (Pogonia in Gray) (Pl. 5) Ames (1.c.) gives the best account—"It has a vertical rhizone, covered with fuscous pubescence. The root-shoots in this species may attain extraordinary length." The root system is much like that of Pogonia, but the vegetative characteristics are very different. This description applies to

I. verticillata. I have never examined the roots of I.affinis. The only station for this species that I ever found is now wiped out.

TRIPHONA. (Pogonia in Gray's Manual) Ames (1.c.) says, "The flowering stem arises from the broad end of an obconical or egg-mk shaped tuber, and from the lower end of the flowering stem, above the tuber, stolons originate and grow out in a more or less horizontal direction, bearing at their end miniature replicas of the mature tuber." (Fl. 5) I have examined a great many (more than 100) root systems of our only species (T. trianthophora). The roots are extremely brittle and they grow only in the upper layers of the leaf-mould, so that it is a very ticklish job to get the roots free leaf-mould, so that it is a very ticklish job to get the roots free without damaging them. The whole root is white and translucent. The plants grow in dense colonies, which makes the task of dissection much more difficult. This species is extremely abundant in some places, but the number of flowering plants varies greatly from year to year. Thousands of plants may be found one year. Then, for a number of years, none or very few can be found. No winterbuds were observed. It is my opinion, based upon many years of observation, that the original tuber decays after flowering and that the smaller tubers take several years to attain flowering size. This would account for the dense colonies and for the remarkable periodicity of the species. The small process at the markable periodicity of the species. The small process at the distal end of the flowering tuber would seem to bear out this hypothesis. More than a hundred flowering plants can often be found in a square foot of leaf-sould.

CALOPOGOM. C. pulchellus, our only species, has a solid corm, more or less ogg-shaped, at right angles to the bulbous base of the stem. (Pl. 5)

ARETHUSA. A. bulbosa has a single globose corm at the base of the stem. (Pl. 3)

SPIRATHES One to several spindle-shaped tuberoids. The winterbud arises within a protective sheath formed by the bases of the old leaves. If one marks a plant of Spiranthes and them examines it late in the fall (October or November) the winter-bud will be plainly visible, as it makes rapid growth at that time. I cannot distinguish the species, except S. Beckil, which has a single tuberoid. (Pl.38)

EPIPACTIS. Root of thick fleshy fibres from a rather fleshy jointed ereeping rootstock. (Fl. 5) The evergreen leaves differ in their markings in each of our native species, so that they can be determined at any season, but I have found no diagnostic characters in the rocts.

LISTERA. Slender fibrous roots, branching from a vertical rnizome.

(Pl. 3). L. australis is stoloniferous and two flowering stems are frequently found on the same plant. It is less slender than L. Gordata. I have not found the two other native species.

CORALLORRHIZA. Gray's Manual says "Much branched and toothed corallike underground stems". G. trifida blooms in May. G. odontorhiza may be distinguished from the other fall-blooming species (C. maculata) by the bulbous-thickened base of its stem. (Pl. 3)

EICROSTVIIS. E. unifolia has a dense orbicular corm, with the stem arising from its summit. The previous year's corm is persistent.

(B1. 5) Our second species, E. monophyllos, is very similar.

LIPARIS. In both of our species the corms are covered with shaggy sheaths, the corms of the previous years persisting. (Pl. 5)

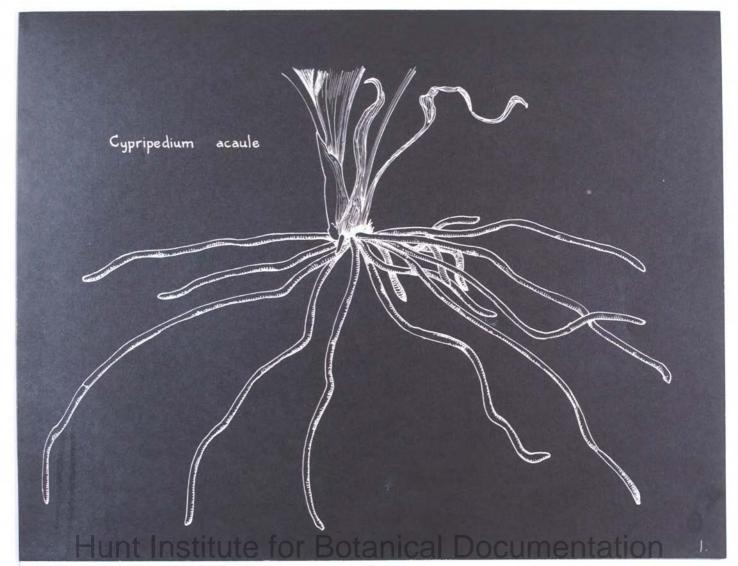
CALYPSO. Our only species (C. bulboss) has neat chestnut-shaped comes, with that of the rest year persisting. The winter bud is at the base of this year's come. (Pl. 5)

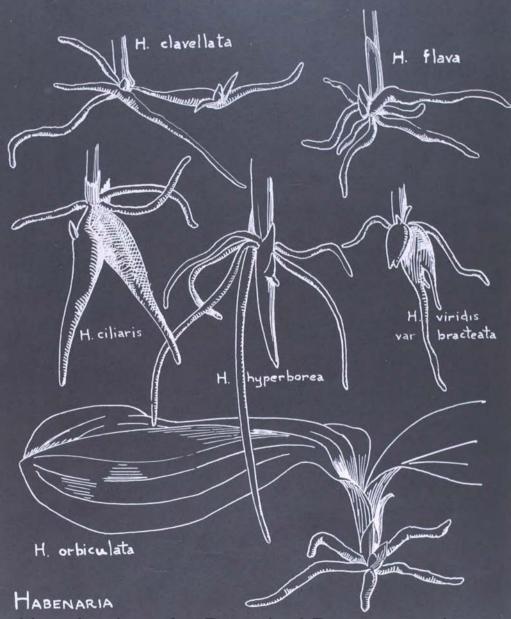
APLECTRUE. A. hyemale has several corms, strung like beads along a slender root-stock. The leaves are produced in autumn and stay green all winter, but die in the spring just before the flowers are produced. Gray's Manual mentions that the corms are "filled with exceedingly glutinous material", but I did not happen to observe this fact on the only occasion that I collected this plant. (F1. 4)

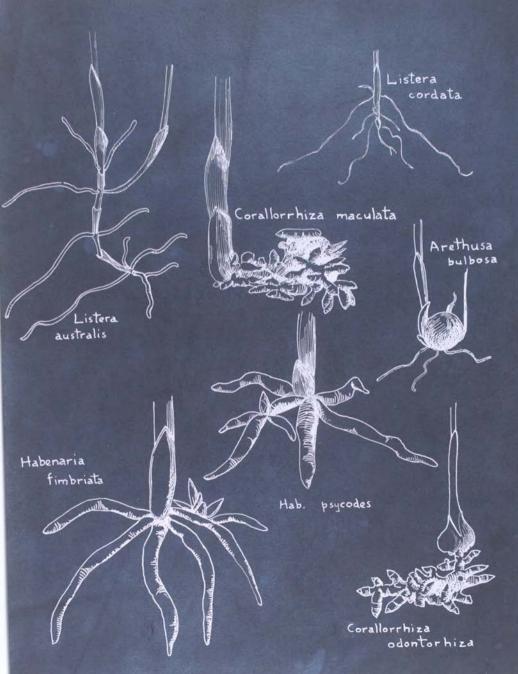
TIPULARIA. Some of the older books record this species/from New England, but I know of no recent record and I as inclined to doubt its occurrence. Its root is similar to that of Aplectrum, but the root-stock is so shortened that it is not visible and the several comes lie side by pide. The leaf is shorter and breader than that of Aplectrum are nearly twice as long as the breadth. The leaves of both species are strongly ribbed and those of Tipularia are purple beneath, tending to become more purple with age. Aplectrum is green on both sides. (Pl. 6)

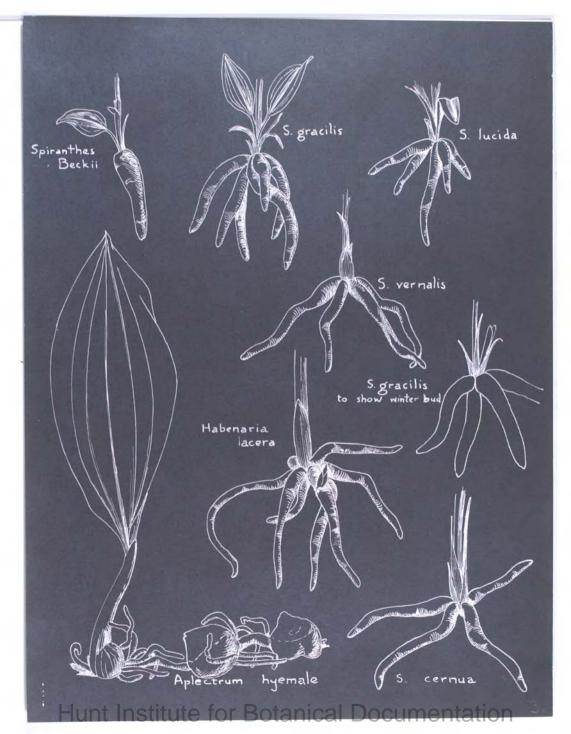
The numbers in parentheses refer to the illustrations. The names are those of Gray's Manual, seventh edition (1908), unless otherwise stated.

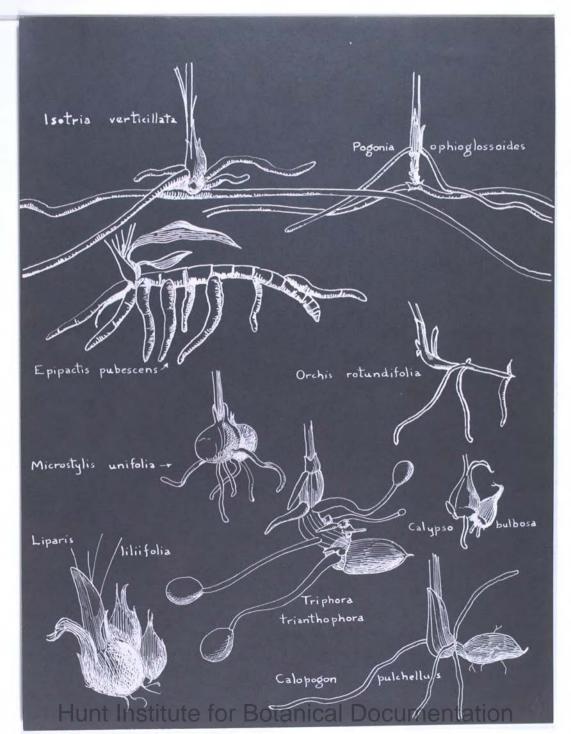
Written April, 1932.

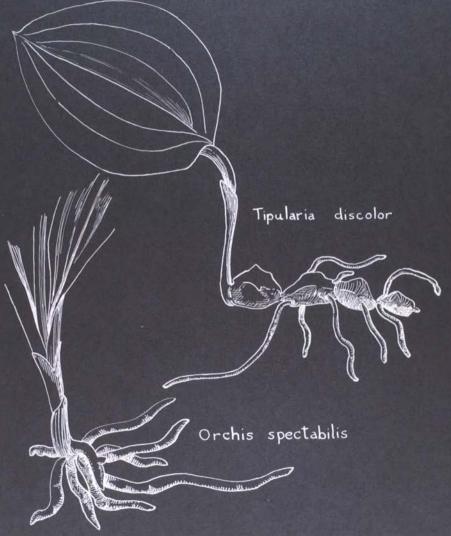




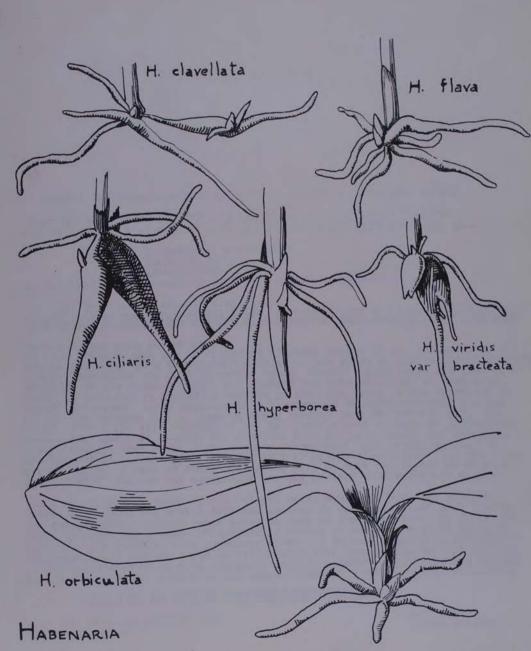








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## NOTES ON THE ROTS OF SOME NEW ENGLAND ORCHIDS.

In the course of my studies of our native orchids, I became deeply interested in the great variety of root structure that they show. Each genus has its own characteristics and these are so distinctive that even a tyro can classify an orchid on the basis of root structure alone. I am very anxious to continue my investigations and I would appreciate it deeply if members in other parts of the country would send me fresh roots of some of their orchids. If these are packed in some of the native soil and wrapped in damp newspaper, they should reach me safely. I shall gladly pay any costs connected with the sending.

Among plants, orchids are remarkable for the extreme specialization of the floral parts. I have no doubt that there will be many references to this in the present bulletin. The roots are no less highly specialized. In the first place, orchids seem to be quite without root hairs. The depend entirely on mycorrhizal fungi to perform the funtions that in other plants are performed by the roots. (In this connection see Dr. Clark's fine article on "Mycorrhiza" in "A for October 1929.) Some tropical orchids have no roots at all! The roots, therefore, being relieved of all necessity of obtaining food are rew duced in function to acting as anchors to hold the plant in the earth and to carrying on the plant's life. All orchids are perennials and so they have within themselves the germ of future years' growth. This takes the form of a winter bud which is a conspicuous feature of the roots of many orchids, although in some species this bud is hidden in a sheath formed by the leaf-base or by bracts at the foot of the stem.

In addition to having the promise of the future, many orchids bring with them in their roots the story of the past. In others, the old root is lost by decay, and only this year's root is visible.

In studying root systems, three things should be noticed:

- a. Form of roots b. Number of rots
- c. Location of winter-buds.

The form of the root shows the greatest variation. This may range from a long cord-like shot as in Pogonia to a small compact corm as in Arethusa.

In number, the roots run from the single tubered of Spirathes Beckii

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The location of the winter-bud varies considerably, as has been suggested above. In some species it is very close to this year's stem, so that the plant remains almost stationary, while in others it is several inches away, so that the plant "marches" slowly but steadily along at quite an appreciable rate.

On latet available information, there are (mitting hybrids and color forms) 50 species of orchids in New England. These are grouped in 17 genera. I have studied 45 species in the field, representing 16 genera. I have never found Amesia (Serapias of Gray's Manual), nor Habenaria cristata (reported but once from N.E.), H. leucophaea, Listera auriculata nor L. convallarioides.

New England Orchids Color B.W Remarks. Cypinpedium and inum panifloum reginal 5 Onchis notundifolia spectabilis Habinaria Flava vividis van brateata clavellata hyperborea dilatata obtusata Hooken orbiculata cristata cilians blephanglottis lacero len cophaea psy codes Findinata Pogonia ophioglossidue I sotia verti allata

Triphora trianthophora 30 Arethusa bulbosa Colopogon pulchellue Spiranthes Beckin gracilis Romanzoffiana Epipadis decipiens tesselata repens va. ophisides Malaxis monophyllor and rachypoda unifolia hipais liliifolia Calypso bellosa Aplectum hyemale Corallouhiza Frifida maculata odoutorhiza

(Colored) Need-Cypripedium anietinum Ondis notumdifolia Habenaria Flava viridis van hadrate hyperbo blephanglottis lacera lencophaea psycorder Listra condata convallarior de Partia affinis Triphorathanthophora Arethusa Julbosa Spiranthes Beckin E pipa tis de li piens traselata repue var. ophioi des pubes cens Malayis montphyllor
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Need (Colned) **Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation**  No representation at all. Cypi pedium arietinum Habennia dilatata obtusata (Sin gle Flowers Hooken (Sin gle Flowers) leucophaea historicalato 10 Epipadis de cipiens Malaxis monophyllos Lipais Locselii (Single flower)

In the course of my studies of our mative orchids, I have been deeply impressed by the great variety of noot structure that they show. Each genue has its own characteristics and there are so distinctive that even a typo can easily bring an orchid to its proper genus by its not structure alone. Moreover tis possible, signifly on the basis of noots to divide the numerous sub-genera of the polymorphic Habenaria group. Whether my semantes thesis would hold good Jord a larger area or not, I do not know. It would be valuable to have comments from other parts of the country where different species through be found, and I should greatly appreciate it if our members outside of New England will send me woods of their orchids. If these are packed in some of the native soil, wrapped in damp newspaper and sent by mail they should reach me in good condition. I shall gladly pay any costs of the Diestal lencophala, for instance Follow the typical structure of the Fimbriata-lacera group?

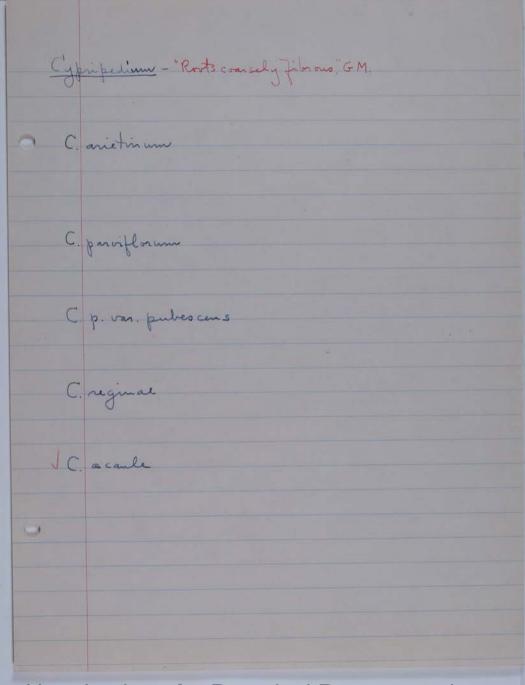
that I cristata the two spindle-shaped main noots of cilianis + blephaniglottis?
These and many other questions need to be answered. tams, many points are important. a. Form 6.) Number c) Location of Winter bad. The form shows most variation and is most characteristic. This varies from the small compact come of Arethusa bulbosa to the long cond-like stolons of Pogonia ophisglossoldes. In mumber the roots sunfrom the single tuber of J. Beckir to the very numer our fleshy fibrousmosts of Cypridedium The location of the winter band, while of less value than the other two, as a diagnostic character, is a matter of considerable intrest. All ordinds are perennials, and consequently have in them the genms of future years growth. This takes the form of a wint to bud, which is usually well developed by blos somingtime. The bud is usually in two parts,

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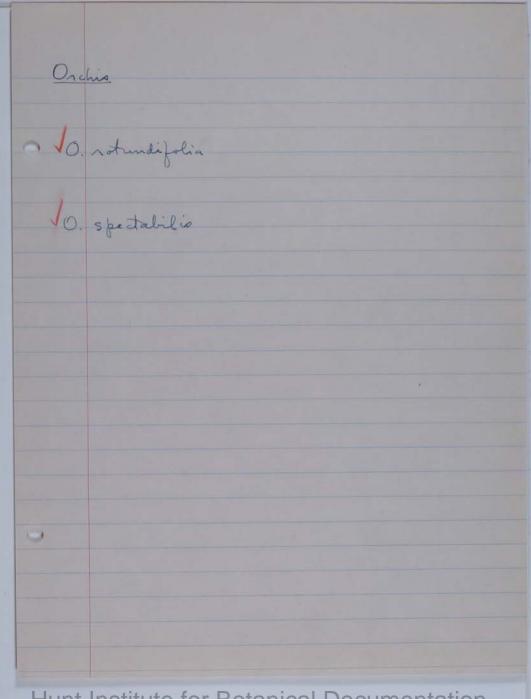
one providing for the stem, leaves, and plowers; the other containing the embry o nort. In most cases it is possible also to find the norts of previous years also, sometimes of several years growth. In some species, the bird is produced very close to the stam, so that the plant remains almost stationary. In others, it is produced several inches from the strue so that the plant "marches slowly but stradily along. I have made careful drawings of dozens of orchid noot systems, and on the back hard of this article are reproduced the typical roots of many Newt ngland orchids, representing all but town of the genera growing in our region. Fractically All of them were made from living plants, the exceptions being: except that of Aple of um, which was made from a photograph. A'cl are Jull size Citical notes on various genera involved follow:

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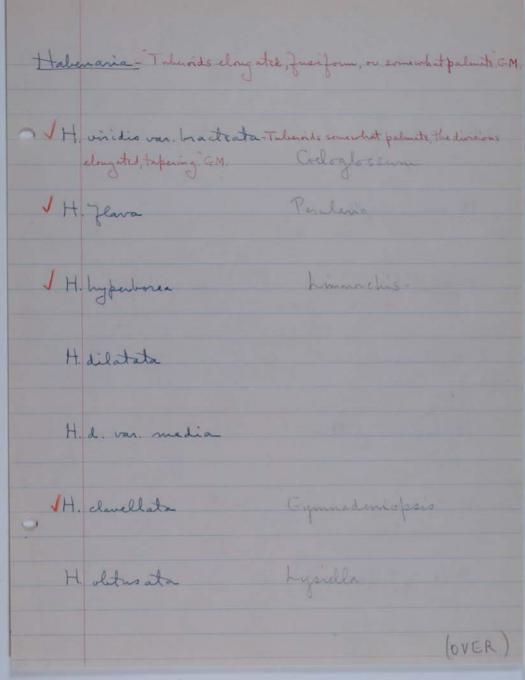
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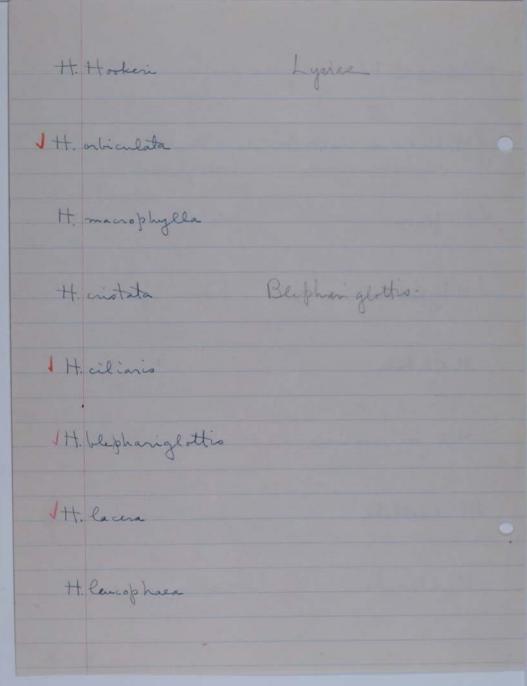
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VH. psy wdes OXH. Andrewsii 1 H. Zimbriata H. J. Jama albiflora It. repens.

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Pogonia A. ophioglossoider Triphona 1 T. trianthophora

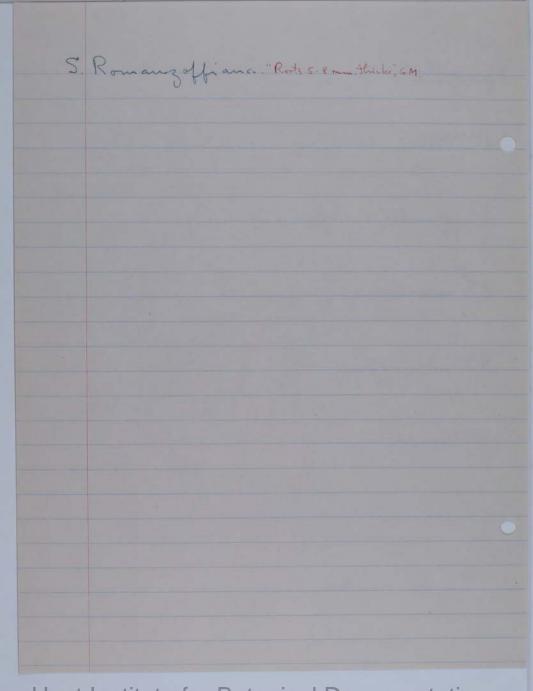
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1 sotria 1 Verticillata 1. offinis Calopogon "Soliabille" GM. V C. pulchellus

A net lusa - Solid white or gremish bull. GM. A bulbosa Amesia A. latifolia Porthiera **Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation** 

Spiranthes "Rots clustered" G.M. 7 1 S. Beckii - Solitary subcylindrical or spinlle shaped nost, GM 15. gracilis "cluster of thickened norts and VS. vernalio Roots drugated, fusiform, GM. XS. intermedia JS. lucida J.S. cenna "Sluder Floshynoits" GM S. c. var. ochrolen ca

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Epipartis "Root of thick fibres from a somewhat fleshyouping nortatock, GM. E repens var. ophivides E tesselata E decipiens I E. pulescens

Listera "Rote fibras" CM. O IL cordata 1 Laustralis L. amiculata L. convallariordes

Corallothiza "Much branched and toothed coral-like underground notless strus". a / C. trifide JC. maculata JC. odnitochiza-Bulbono-thickened at base, GM.

Microstylis "Sold hells" M. monophyllos J M. unifolia Lipario "Solid hells" Jh. liliifolia L. Loeselii

Calypso "Rounded or cloyated com" Vc. bullosa A ple trum "Sender maked nostatrak produces ench year a globular solid bulk on come, often 2.5 cm. in diameter (filled with exceedingly glutinasomatti, GM J A. hyemale Tipularia IT. dis colon

Amesia A plectum hyemale 1 Arethusa bulbosa I Calopogon kulchellus V Calypso bulbosa V Corallonhiza maculata I C. odoutorhiza C. trifida Cyprifedium a caule C. anithinum C. hirsutum C. parviflorum

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Cyp. par. var. Julies cens Epipactis decipiens E. pulifocens E repens var. ophivider E. trsselata Haberaria Andrewsii H. blephaniglottis A. ciliaris A. clavellata H. cristata H. dilatata Hd. var. media

H. Fimbriata ( ) della JH. Flava /H. hyperborea 1 H. la cera H. Cencophaea H. manophylla H. obtusata A. orbiculata A. psycrdes H. viridais on bractata Hayalectris aphylla

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Isotria (at end) -Miparis lilii folia Lipanis hoeselii Listera auriculata L. australis L. convallarioides 4. condata Malaxis paludos a Microstylis monophyllos M. unifolia Onchis notun difolia O. spe talilis Vogonia ophioglossoides

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VSpiranthes Beckii S. c. var. ochrolenca 15 gracilis S. x intermedia 15. Cucida 15. vernalis Tipularia discolor Triphora trianthophora Isobia affinis 11. verticillata

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