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## THE ORCHIDS OF THE CYPRESS HILLS

ROBERT M. FISHER. diagrams & 2 pp. colour plates. O. Pall, 1612-46 St. N.W. Calgary T3B 1A9. 33 pp. 1980. \$4.95.

*The Orchids of the Cypress Hills* has been written to introduce this family of vascular plants and to explain why the habitats of these species need protection. The author describes 14 orchid species and illustrates each with clear line drawings. The two center pages show 18 colour photographs illustrating close-ups or habitats of most of the species described.

The introduction locates and describes the uniqueness of the Cypress Hills and then comments on the orchid family and explains how these fascinating plants add to the beauty and value of the Cypress Hills. Although some of the orchid species are fairly common and abundant others are very rare. The author explains why these species are so "susceptible to man-made habitat changes" and makes a plea for the preservation of these fragile flowers by saving "their habitats from careless destruction". The introduction includes simple keys which may be used to identify most of the orchids occurring anywhere in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The booklet describes 14 species and lists a 15th in a footnote in which the additional species *Goodyera repens* var. *ophioides*, Lesser Rattlesnake Plantain, is distinguished from *G. oblongifolia*, Menzies' Rattlesnake Plantain. When I was in the Saskatchewan Cypress Hills with a botany group in

1981 we found *Cypripedium calceolus*, Yellow Lady's Slipper, which would be the 16th orchid species in the Cypress Hills. Since Fisher did not include the species I turned to the definitive article on *Cypripedium* in Saskatchewan by V. L. Harms, *Blue Jay*, June, 1974. The distribution map does not locate *C. calceolus* in the Cypress Hills and in the text Harms states that the species has not yet been collected in southwestern Saskatchewan. We did not realize that we were adding a new species to the orchids of the Cypress Hills but several good voucher photographs were taken.

The booklet, *The Orchids of the Cypress Hills*, is simply written and clearly illustrated. It makes identification of these fascinating plants really easy and it will go a long way toward creating a greater understanding and appreciation of our native flora. — Reviewed by G. F. Ledingham, University of Regina Herbarium, Regina, Saskatchewan.



*Calypso or Venus' Slipper.* Mabel Miller