

Cypripedium parviflorum Salisb.

synonym: *Cypripedium calceolus* L. var. *parviflorum*

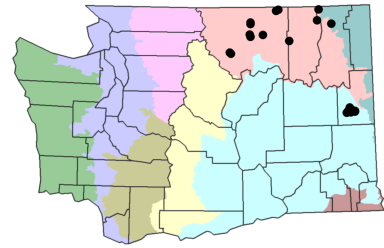
(Salisb.) Fernald

yellow lady's-slipper

Orchidaceae - orchid family

status: State Threatened, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



General Description: Perennial with showy flowers; stems 7-70 cm tall, sparsely pubescent, somewhat glandular. Leaves several, alternate, bases slightly sheathing the stem, broadly elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 6-17 x up to 7 cm, lightly pubescent, usually glandular.

Floral Characteristics: Flower 1 (rarely 2), terminal, subtended by an erect, leaflike bract. Sepals and petals greenish or yellowish, often marked with dark reddish brown or purplish spots, blotches, or streaks. Upper sepal broadest, 19-80 x 7-40 mm; the lateral pair of sepals completely fused or with only a notch at their tip. Petals somewhat narrower and longer than the sepals, 24-97 x 3-12 mm, often wavy-margined and spirally twisted. Lip strongly pouched, 15-54 mm long, pale to deep yellow (rarely white), sometimes with reddish or purplish spots around the orifice. Flowers May to June.



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Fruits: Ellipsoid to oblong-ellipsoid capsules.

Identification Tips: *Cypripedium montanum* has a white lip, rarely suffused with magenta. It may hybridize with *C. parviflorum*, resulting in individuals with very pale yellow lips. The habitat of *C. montanum* is typically well-drained upland, while that of *C. parviflorum* is wetland/riparian or the ecotone between wetland and upland. Two varieties, var. *makasin* and var. *pubescens*, are both reported from WA; their relative abundance and distribution is under review.

Range: East of the Cascade crest in B.C., WA, and OR, to the eastern U.S. and Canada.

Habitat/Ecology: Bogs, swamps, pond edges, and wet forests. In the channeled scablands of WA it occurs around ponds and stream edges, in low moist areas, and sometimes calcareous soils. Associates include red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and starry solomon-plume (*Maianthemum stellatum*). Elevations in WA: 550-1050 m (1800-3440 ft).

Comments: Most occurrences are small and lack protection. Threats include timber harvest, livestock grazing, and collecting. This taxon is rare in several states and Canadian provinces.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26; Luer 1975.



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