

# *Ophioglossum pusillum*

Ophioglossaceae  
northern adder's tongue



Charlene Simpson



Scott Sundberg



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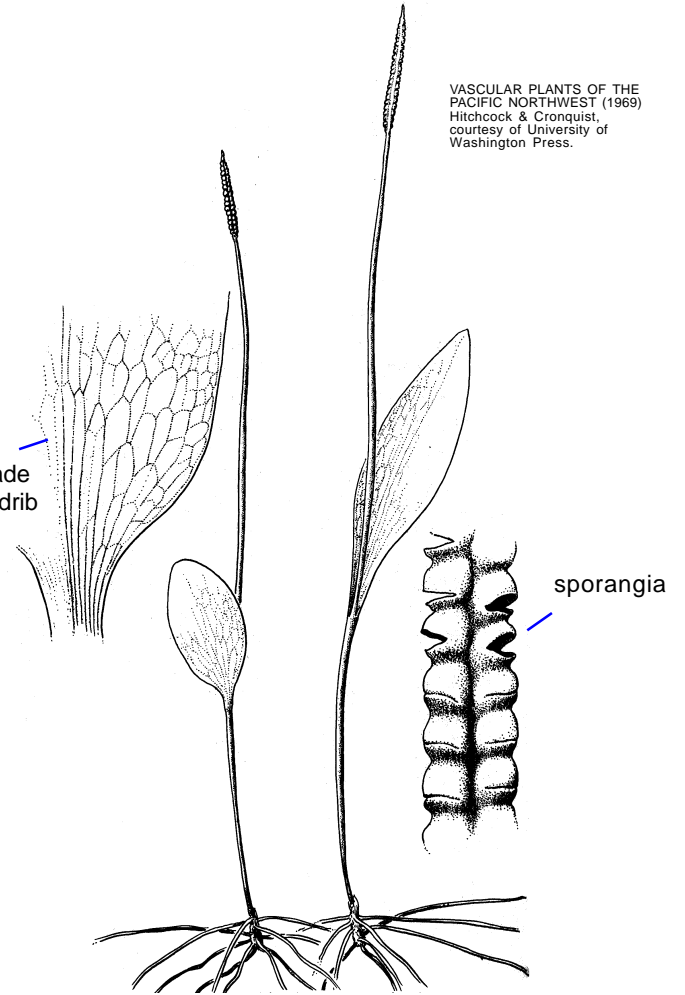


Scott Sundberg

best survey times  
J|F|M|A|M|J|J|A|S|O|N|D



veins on leaf blade  
in a network, midrib  
absent



VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST (1969)  
Hitchcock & Cronquist  
courtesy of University of  
Washington Press.

sporangia

Upright, glabrous, somewhat fleshy, deciduous, perennial herb from slender rhizomes. **Stem** solitary (2), (5)10-30 cm tall, spore-bearing stalk widely separated from the sterile portion, arising from a short, inconspicuous stem and a cluster of roots. **Leaf** blade attached 3-15 cm above the ground level, simple, elliptic to ovate, entire, rounded to obtuse at the tip, 2.5-10 cm long, 1-4 cm wide; venation reticulate. **Spore-bearing stalk** mostly 3-15 cm long; fertile spike erect, unbranched; sporangium cluster (1)2-4.5 cm long; sporangia in two rows along one side.

### Lookalikes

When spore-bearing stalks are present, no other plants look like adder's tongue. When the leaves have just begun to emerge from the ground it looks similar to seedlings of a number of other species. Close examination of the leaf, which has no midrib and typically would have a lump of tissue where the fertile stalk will grow, distinguishes this plant from all other species in Oregon.

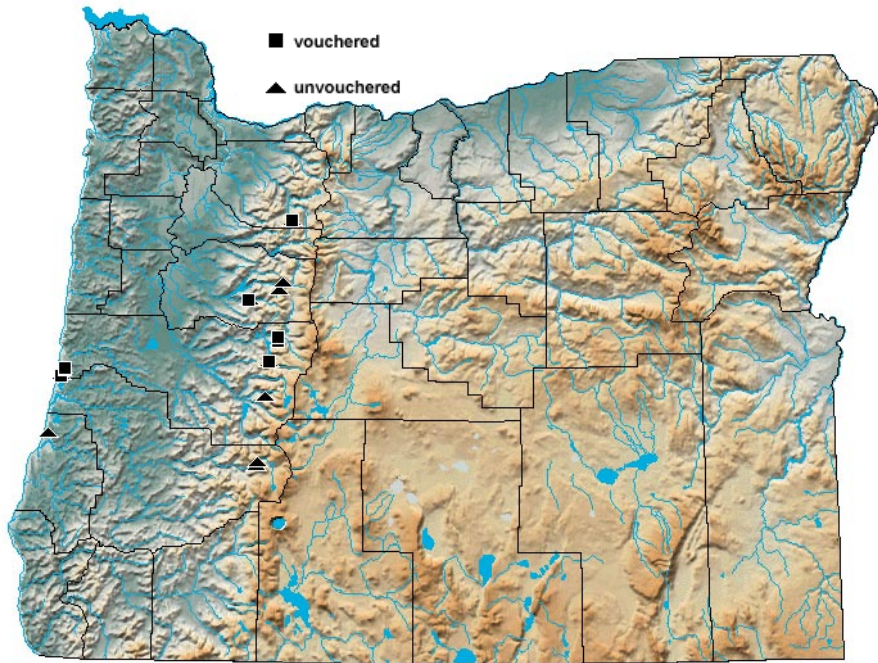
***Ophioglossum pusillum* Raf.**

(=*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)

northern adder's tongue

PLANTS symbol: OPPU3

August 2019 status ORBIC: List 2



**Distribution:** : Western Oregon along coast and in Cascade Mountains; Washington, northern California; Midwestern US, Northeastern US, southern Canada.

**Habitat:** Marshes, bogs, wet meadows, coastal lakeshores, deflation plains, moist woods.

**Elevation:** 400—1500 m

**Best survey time(with sporangia):** July - early October

**Associated species:**

*Carex amplifolia* (bigleaf sedge)

*C. vesicaria* (inflated sedge)

*Spiraea douglasii* (Douglas spiraea)

*Sceptridium multifidum* (leather grapefern)

**Notes:** This species was once merged with *O. vulgatum*, which has a wider distribution and is known in the US only from east of the Rocky Mountains.

