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Calypso bulbosa

[Synonyms : *Calypso borealis*, *Calypso bulbosa* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Calypso occidentalis*, *Cymbidium boreale*, *Cypripedium bulbosum*, *Cytherea borealis*, *Cytherea bulbosa*, *Limodorum boreale*, *Orchidium arcticum*]

CALYPSO (English and French) is a deciduous orchid. Native to North America (from New Mexico in the southern United States to inside the Arctic Circle) it has a small vanilla-scented, purplish-pink flower with a yellow bearded, purple-mottled, brownish pink lip. It is also known as Angel slipper, Cytherea, Bog orchid, Fairy slipper, Fairy slipper orchid, *Norna* (Swedish), and Venus-slipper.

The flowers are pollinated by bees, particularly bumble-bees.

Bulbosa means 'bulbous or swollen' with reference to the appearance of the root.

Calypso was familiar to North American Indian tribes, and the tuberous bulb is said to have been eaten, certainly by the Creek Indians.

For the Thompson tribe the bulb and flowers offered a treatment for epilepsy.