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Goodyera pubescens

[Synonyms : *Epipactis pubescens*, *Neottia pubescens*, *Peramium pubescens*]

DOWNY RATTLESNAKE PLANTAIN is an orchid. Native to eastern North America it has small, white or greenish-white flowers with a hooded cupped lip.

It is also known as Adder's tongue, Adder's viola, Adder's violet, Adder tongue cactus, Cancer weed, Canker root, Downy rattlesnake, Downy rattlesnake orchid, Net-leaf, Net-leaf plantain, Networt, Ratsbane, Rattlesnake leaf, Rattlesnake orchid, Rattlesnake plantain, Rattlesnake root, Rattlesnake tongue, Rattlesnake weed, Scrofula weed, Spotted plantain, Water plantain, and White plantain.

Pubescens means 'hairy or downy'.

It was used by some North American Indian tribes as a source of medicine. For the Delaware Indians it provided a treatment for pleurisy, various childbirth problems and rheumatism. Babies' sore mouths were treated with it in the Mohican tribe, and the Cherokee used it for some kidney disorders, blood ailments, eye problems, colds, toothache and burns. The latter also used it to cause vomiting and as an appetite enhancer.

Medicinally, the leaves have been used locally to treat tuberculosis.