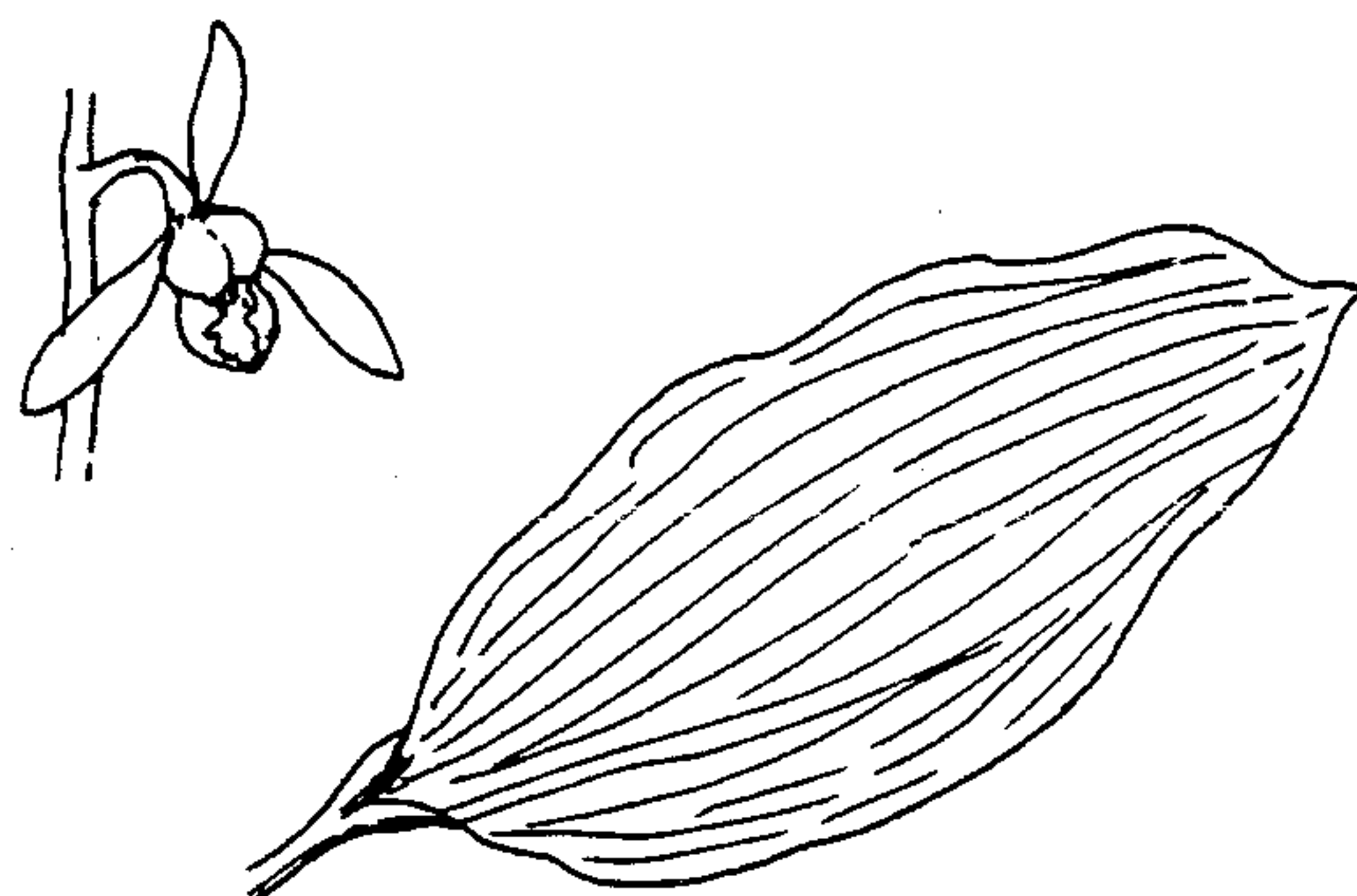


LOOK AGAIN !

Many wildflowers retain at least some of their leaves throughout the winter--a property that helps us to keep track of the plants until the time comes for them to bloom. There are a few, however, whose foliage is slightly less persistent and, in fact, has the unsettling habit of vanishing just when it would have become most useful as a locator.

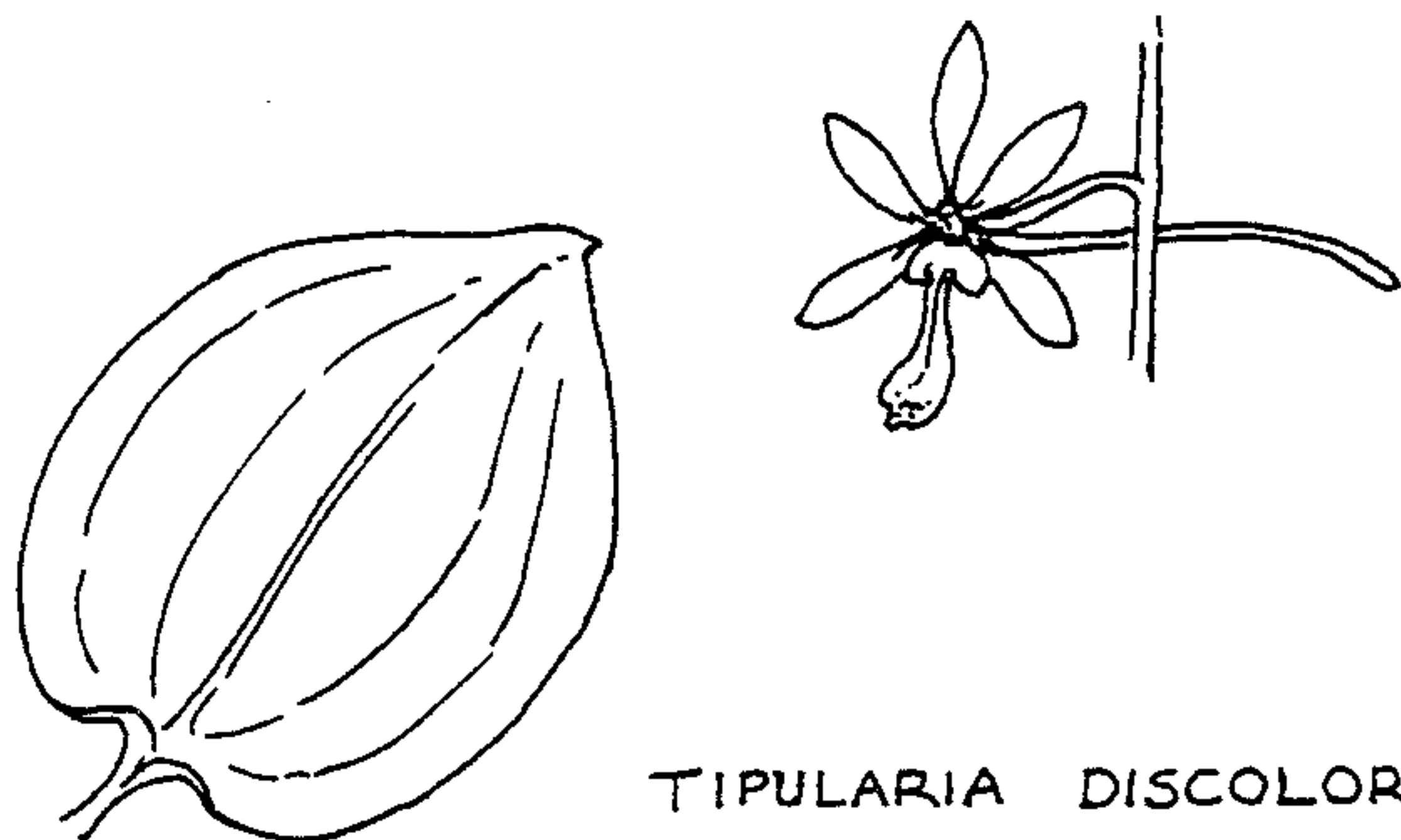
Two species that come to mind are native orchids: Aplectrum hyemale, known as Puttyroot or Adam-and-Eve, the only member of its genus; and Tipularia discolor, the Crane-fly Orchid, which has only two close relatives, both of them Asian.

Aplectrum produces a solitary leaf in late summer or fall, and it decays in early spring before the flower stem emerges in May or June. The leaf is 4 to 6 inches long, elliptic, with wavy margins and a great many impressed whitish longitudinal veins that give it a corrugated appearance. The inflorescence is a raceme of up to 15 flowers with sepals and petals about 1/2" long, the lip white marked with violet, otherwise varying to yellowish or greenish with magenta markings.



APECTRUM HYEMALE

Tipularia discolor also emits a single leaf, but it is ovate with a depressed midvein and 2 to 6 prominent side veins, dull green above and glossy purple beneath. A slender scape appears in late summer bearing a raceme of many delicate, slightly nodding flowers; the floral parts are 3/8" long except for the much longer spur, and usually are pale purplish but vary considerably in color. By that time the leaf has disappeared.



TIPULARIA DISCOLOR

Dick Smith