



HEATH FAMILY.

ERICACEAE.

Shinleaf.

Pyrola elliptica.

Found in the woods in June.

The little underground stalk throws up a few leaves, and a flower stem which reaches 6 or 8 inches in height.

The leaf is round, or oval, showing the midrib and veins, with an entire margin whose edge curls under, and a tough leathery fibre. It is evergreen, dark and strong in color, the ribs and veins being whitish.



It is set on a short, margined, reddish stem, which is protected at the ground by an enfolding dark sheath.

The 5 petals of the flower form a cup; they are thin and waxy in texture, and are pale greenish-white; the 10 yellow-tipped white stamens huddle all together in the upper part of the cup; the long curved pistil is down-bent; the calyx is 5-parted, flat, and green.

Several flowers on short, down-turned, green-reddish stems, are placed together upon a slender, erect, green stem which rises from the ground; it is tinted reddish at its base, and midway its length bears one small red-green bract.

There is a smack of individuality about this plant; it presents an appearance of being self-sufficient, and exclusive, though growing in more or less numerous companionship with its kindred.

Top photo:kbarton

Lower photo: Superior National Forest (Pyrola_elliptica_3 Uploaded by AlbertHerring) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons



SHINLEAF: *Pyrola elliptica*.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895
Nomenclature and Families updated.