

PHYTOLACCACEAE – POKEWEEED FAMILY

Plant: herbs, shrubs or trees, rarely woody vines

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: simple, entire and alternate or opposite; often large; no stipules or very small

Flowers: perfect, rarely unisexual, regular (actinomorphic); 4-8 sepals; no petals; 3-4 to many stamens, often twice the number of sepals; ovary mostly superior, inferior in one genus, 1 to 15+ carpels

Fruit: berries, capsules, nutlets or winged seeds

Other: mostly tropical family; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 18+ genera; locally *Phytolacca* (pokeweed)

PHYTOLACCACEAE – POKEWEED FAMILY

[American] Pokeweed; *Phytolacca americana* L.

[American] Poke or Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana L.

Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower with no petals, 5 sepals, white to pinkish;
leaves ovate to lanceolate; tall plant, much branched and
common; young shoots edible but rest may be
poisonous; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]

