

APOCYNACEAE - DOGBANE FAMILY

Plant: herbs, woody vines, shrubs and trees

Stem: often with milky juice

Root:

Leaves: entire, simple, usually opposite or alternate, rarely whorled; stipules rare and often reduced

Flowers: perfect, regular (actinomorphic); solitary to clusters or spikes; 4, mostly 5 sepals; 5 petals, commonly 5-lobed bell- to funnel-shaped flowers; 5 stamens on corolla tube alternate with lobes, ovary superior, 1 pistil, 2 carpels, 1 style

Fruit: slender pod (follicle), 2 pods with many seeds attached to style, often with hairs, or berries or capsules

Other: closely related to milkweeds, mostly tropical, some are ornamentals; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 300+ genera; locally *Amsonia* (blue star), *Apocynum* (dogbane), *Trachelospermum*, *Vinca* (periwinkle)

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family) – 5-lobed sepals and petals, petals often bell- or funnel-shaped and lobed; stem with milky sap; leaves simple and entire; fruit usually a follicle

Examples of common genera



Spreading Dogbane
Apocynum androsaemifolium L.



[American] Indian Hemp
[Prairie Dogbane]
Apocynum cannabinum L.



Eastern Bluestar (Willow Amsonia)
Amsonia tabernaemontana Walter



Common Periwinkle [Myrtle]
Vinca minor L. (Introduced)



Climbing Dogbane
Trachelospermum difforme (Walter) A. Gray

APOCYNACEAE - DOGBANE FAMILY

[Shining] Ozark Bluestar; *Amsonia illustris* Woodson
Eastern Bluestar (Willow Amsonia); *Amsonia tabernaemontana* Walter
Spreading Dogbane; *Apocynum androsaemifolium* L.
[American] Indian Hemp; *Apocynum cannabinum* L.
Climbing Dogbane; *Trachelospermum difforme* (Walter) A. Gray
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[Shining] Ozark Bluestar

Amsonia illustris Woodson

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard

County, Missouri

Notes: 5-lobed (star-shaped) bell-shaped flower, light blue and very hairy, sepal lobes short and somewhat hairy, flowers in a cyme; leaves alternate, lanceolate, shiny above and often glaucous below, with distinct petioles; stem glabrous; along streams or wet areas; spring

[V Max Brown, 2011]



Eastern Bluestar (Willow Amsonia)



Amsonia tabernaemontana Walter
Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area,
Christian County, Missouri

Notes: 5-lobed (star-shaped) bell-shaped flower,
light blue and very hairy, sepal lobes short and
mostly glabrous, flowers in a cyme; leaves
alternate, lanceolate to ovate, dull green above,
with distinct petioles; stem glabrous; spring

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Spreading Dogbane

Apocynum androsaemifolium L.

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-lobed (somewhat recurved) bell-shaped flower, pinkish white with pink stripes inside, sepal lobes short, flowers often nodding; leaves opposite, ovate to lanceolate, with petioles; stem glaucous, widely branching, juice milky; late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



[American] Indian Hemp [Prairie Dogbane]



Apocynum cannabinum L.
Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-lobed bell-shaped flower in dense clusters, small, white to greenish-white, sepal lobes $\frac{1}{2}$ to as long as petal, flowers mostly erect, sometimes nodding; leaves ovate-lanceolate, upper sessile but lower ones petiolate (resembles a milkweed); strong central stem, often reddish; fruit a long pod; late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Climbing Dogbane

Trachelospermum difforme (Walter) A. Gray

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard

County, Missouri

Notes: vine, woody base; 5-lobed funnel-shaped flower, yellow with red vertical lines within tube, in axillary clusters; leaves opposite, lanceolate to ovate with sharp tip, glabrous above, somewhat hairy and paler below; stem twining, usually slightly hairy; fruit long and slender; summer

[V Max Brown, 2011]



Common Periwinkle [Myrtle]

Vinca minor L. (Introduced)

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-lobed flower, blue or lavender; leaves evergreen, ovate-lanceolate, glabrous; long trailing stems, somewhat woody, non-twining, often forming invasive ground covers; Spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2004]

