

DIOSCOREACEAE – YAM FAMILY

Plant: herbs or woody vines

Stem: rhizomes present

Root: may be tuberous

Leaves: entire, simple to lobed, often cordate, mostly alternate but may be opposite or whorled; no stipules

Flowers: N.A. species imperfect (dioecious); small, in spikes or racemes; 3 petals, adnate with 3 sepals forming a tube; 6 stamens; ovary inferior, 3 pistils, 3 styles, 3 carpels, ovary 1-3-chambered, 2 or more ovules per carpel

Fruit: capsule or berry, some seeds winged

Other: (Also known as Tamacaceae); mostly found in tropics and subtropics; Monocotyledons Group

Genera: 3-20+ genera; locally *Dioscorea* (yam)

DIOSCOREACEAE – YAM FAMILY

Chinese Yam [Cinnamon Vine]; *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L. (Introduced)

Wild Yam [Yamroot]; *Dioscorea villosa* L.

Chinese Yam [Cinnamon Vine]

Dioscorea oppositifolia L. (Introduced)

Dioscoreaceae (Yam Family)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene

County, Missouri

Notes: vine; flowers small and inconspicuous, in panicles from leaf axils; leaves opposite but some are usually alternate, leaf base cordate, all veins (7-9) arise from the base of the leaf, mostly glabrous, leaf edge often reddish-purple; fruit a bulbil (above ground tuber) arising at the nodes, plant mostly propagates vegetatively by these bulbils; spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Wild Yam [Yamroot]

Dioscorea villosa L.

Dioscoreaceae (Yam Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; flowers of 6 tepals, greenish-white to yellow, small, in mostly upright spikes (racemes); leaves entire, mostly alternate, cordate with a long point, some may be whorled toward base; stem smooth mostly without knobs; fruit a 4-angled capsule; spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]

