

## BIGNONIACEAE – BIGNONIA FAMILY

**Plant:** rarely herbs, mostly woody vines or shrubs and trees

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** mostly opposite, simple or compound, rarely whorled; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect, showy and usually in clusters; calyx 2 or 5-lobed, corolla most often a trumpet, funnel-like or bell-shaped, 5-lobed and often looks 2-lipped; 2-4 stamens (rarely 5), alternate with corolla lobes; 1 style and 1 stigma, ovary superior and 2-chambered, many ovules

**Fruit:** capsule, 2-valved, fleshy and often bean-like; seeds often flat and winged

**Other:** mostly subtropical to tropical; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** Many (100+) genera; locally *Bignonia* (Cross Vine), *Campsis* (trumpet creeper), *Catalpa*, *Paulownia* (empress tree)

**Bignoniaceae (Trumpet Creeper or Bignonia Family) – 5-lobed corolla often appearing 2-lipped, showy, sometimes funnel- or bell-shaped; calyx usually 2-lobed; fruit often a bean-like capsule – some examples below**



**Trumpet Creeper**  
*Campsis radicans*



**Cross Vine; Quarter Vine**  
*Bignonia capreolata* L.



**Northern Catalpa [Cigar-Tree]**  
*Catalpa speciosa*

Very long Pods



**Desert Willow**  
*Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet

## **BIGNONIACEAE – BIGNONIA FAMILY**

**Cross Vine; Quarter Vine; *Bignonia capreolata* L.**

**Trumpet Creeper; *Campsis radicans* (L.) Seem. ex Bureau**

**Northern Catalpa [Cigar-Tree]; *Catalpa speciosa* (Warder) Warder ex Engelm**

**Desert Willow; *Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet**

# Cross Vine; Quarter Vine

*Bignonia capreolata* L.

Bignoniaceae (Bignonia or Trumpet Creeper Family)

Greers Ferry Lake area, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Notes: vine; 5-lobed flowers, somewhat 2-lipped, red to reddish-orange, inner surface yellow to yellow-orange, trumpet-shaped; leaves opposite, compound with 2 leaflets, cordate base and acute tip; long woody stem, finely angled or ridged, tendrils present; fruit a long seed capsule; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2012]



# Trumpet Creeper or Vine

## [Hell Vine, Devil's Shoe Laces]



*Campsis radicans* (L.) Seem. ex Bureau

Bignoniaceae (Bignonia or Trumpet Creeper Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; 5-lobed flowers, orange to reddish-orange, long trumpet-shaped; leaves opposite, pinnately compound, 7-11+ serrate leaflets; long woody stem; fruit a cigar-shaped seed capsule; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



# Northern Catalpa [Cigar-Tree]

*Catalpa speciosa* (Warder) Warder ex Engelm  
Bignoniaceae (Bignonia or Trumpet-Creeper Family)



Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio  
Notes: flowers large with 2 yellow stripes, spotted with brownish to purple, lower lip notched; leaves tapering to a long point, glabrous above and pubescent below; seed pods to 50 cm, seeds with fringe hairs; leaf scars large and circular; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]



# Desert Willow

*Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet  
Bignoniaceae (Bignonia or  
Trumpet-Creeper Family)



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation  
Area, Clarke County, Nevada

Notes: shrub; flowers large, striped within,  
pink to lavender to almost purple; leaves  
linear (curved), deciduous; seed pods to  
30+ cm, seeds winged; erect plant, up to  
8+ m (usually less), bark thin; spring to  
early fall (2 subspecies present)

[V Max Brown, 2014]

