

# Caprifoliaceae

## honeysuckle family

Honeysuckles and related genera total about 400 species, and are woody vines, trees or shrubs. Most are boreal or north-temperate plants with simple, opposite leaves although some have pinnately compound leaves. Inflorescence is a cyme or cymose and the flowers are 3–5-merous. The calyx is constricted beneath the limb. Corolla is regular or irregular, sympetalous with stamens attached to its tube. Ovary is wholly or partly inferior, carpels 3–5 with more than one locule. Styles may be sessile on the ovary. If style is absent, then the stigma is sessile. Ornamentals in this family include snowberry, honeysuckle and highbush-cranberry.

### Key to genera

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| A. Style absent or very short; corolla small, rotate or campanulate, usually white and regular.                 | B                     |
| B. Leaves simple; fruit a drupe, with one seed.   | <i>Viburnum</i>       |
| bb. Leaves pinnate; fruit a berry, 3–5 seeds.   | <i>Sambucus</i>       |
| aa. Style elongated; corolla various.   | C                     |
| C. Plant a vine; flowers in pairs; corolla lobes 5, stamens 4.  | <i>Linnaea</i>        |
| cc. Plant erect or a vine; flowers cymose or in pairs; corolla lobes and stamens equal in number, most often 5. | D                     |
| D. Erect, herbaceous.   | <i>Triosteum</i>      |
| dd. An erect shrub, or climbing vine.   | E                     |
| E. Leaves serrated; fruit a capsule.  | <i>Diervilla</i>      |
| ee. Leaves entire; fruit fleshy.  | F                     |
| F. Corolla 1cm or more in length; locules 2–3.  | <i>Lonicera</i>       |
| ff. Corolla <8mm long; locules 4.   | <i>Symphoricarpos</i> |

### *Diervilla* P. Miller

#### Bush Honeysuckle

Limited to North America, there are only three species included. All are low-growing shrubs, bearing serrated opposite leaves and yellow flowers in cymes. The corolla is funnellform, the lobes and stamens in fives. Stamens are barely exerted. Hypanthium extends beyond the ovary, persisting as a beak.

***Diervilla lonicera* P. Mill**

**Bush Honeysuckle; dièreville chèvrefeuille**



*Photo by Sean Blaney*

The leaves are often bronze or purplish and large. The yellow flowers have the upper two corolla lobes longer than the lower three. The capsules are dehiscent.

Flowers late June through July.

Grows in dry habitat where the soil is sandy and stony as along railbeds, roadsides and fields.

Common throughout Nova Scotia.

Ranges from NF to SK, south to AL and GA.



*Photo by Sean Blaney*



*Photo by Martin Thomas*

***Linnaea* L.**

**Twinflower**

Circumboreal in distribution, Twinflower is monotypic. Barely woody, it is an evergreen vine with sessile ovate leaves. Inflorescence is terminal and limited to a pair of campanulate flowers on a scape. Five-merous, with only four inserted stamens. Ovary has three locules producing single seeded capsules.

***Linnaea borealis* L.****Twinflower; linnée boréale***Photo by Mark Elderkin**Photo by Sean Blaney*

A shallow-rooted trailing plant, it bears tiny rounded leaves, crenately toothed. Campanulate flowers are erect on slender scapes.

Flowers in June.

Frequents moist, mossy acidic soils as in wooded swamps, spruce bogs and coniferous forests.

Common throughout.

Ranges from NL to AK, south to CA, NM and TN; Eurasia.

***Lonicera* L.****honeysuckles**

Plants of the northern hemisphere, there are about 180 species worldwide. Shrubs or woody vines, they bear simple leaves with mostly entire margins. Inflorescence is terminal, with one or more whorls of six flowers. A few species have axillary pairs of sessile flowers, united at the base of the ovaries. Corollas are tubular, with five lobes, while sometimes appearing bilabiate with two pairs opposing a single limb. Fruit is fleshy and usually berrylike.

## Key to species

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| A. Flowers in opposite, sessile cymes of three flowers; woody vine. | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> |
| aa. Flowers paired; plants erect, not climbing.                     | B                            |
| B. Corolla weakly bilabiate; style hirsute; garden species.         | <i>L. tatarica</i>           |
| bb. Corolla not bilabiate; styles smooth; native species.           | C                            |
| C. Ovaries separate, divergent; fruit red.                          | <i>L. canadensis</i>         |
| cc. Ovaries conjoined; fruit blue.                                  | <i>L. villosa</i>            |

***Lonicera canadensis* Bartr.**  
**Fly Honeysuckle; chèvrefeuille du Canada**



*Photo by Sean Blaney*



*Photo by Martin Thomas*

A shrub, it bears particularly slender twigs. The leaves are ovate and thin in texture, sometimes glaucous below. Flowers are greenish or yellowish, carried in pairs on drooping peduncles. Fruits are red and nearly distinct.

Flowers in early May.

Found in light soils of rocky woods and ravines, often below deciduous canopy.

Common throughout NS, especially along the northern half.

Ranges from NS to ON, south to GA and IA.

***Lonicera periclymenum* L.**  
**Woodbine; chèvrefeuille des bois**



*Photo by Marian Munro*

A woody ornamental vine, it has pairs of sessile ovate leaves; their veins are prominently white. The flowers are borne in a tight terminal cluster, initially purplish fading to yellow.

Flowers July and August.

Found roadside and along edges of thickets, hedges and forests.

A common escape from Yarmouth Co., east to the Musquodoboit River.

Native to Eurasia, NS; ON; ME; WA and OR.

***Lonicera tatarica* L.**

**Tatarian Honeysuckle; chèvrefeuille de Tartarie**



Photo by Sean Blaney

A smooth shrub, it has hollow shoots and thin ovate to lanceolate leaves. Flowers are axillary and pedunculate, pink to white.

Flowers May and June.

A garden escape, to edges of fields, forests and shady streams.

Primarily limited to the Annapolis Valley as an introduction.

Ranges from NS to AB and AK, south to CA, NM and VA. Introduced from Eurasia.

***Lonicera villosa* (Michx.) R&S.**

**Mountain Fly Honeysuckle; chèvrefeuille velu**



Photo by David Mazerolle

A low-growing shrub, rarely taller than a meter, it bears strongly ascending branches and appressed or ascending winter buds. The leaves are nearly sessile, oblong to oblanceolate and blunt, generally pubescent and leathery. The pedunculate flowers are yellowish and the corolla lobes are subequal. We have four varieties:

A. Leaves densely villous or almost tomentose on upper and lower surfaces; limb of calyx ciliate; var. *villosa*



Photo by David Mazerolle

- corolla villous; short shrub.
- aa. Leaves pilose to merely hirsute, even smooth beneath; strigose to glabrous above; calyx limb and corolla mostly glabrous; taller shrub. B
- B. Young branchlets puberulent. C
- C. Young branchlets puberulent and pilose-hirsute. var. *solonis*
- cc. Young branchlets merely puberulent. var. *tonsa*
- bb. Young branchlets glabrous var. *tonsa*

Flowers in May.

Peaty soils in bogs, on barrens in cooler regions.

Scattered throughout the province.

Ranges from NF to NU and AB, south to MN, OH and PA.

## ***Sambucus* L. elderberries**

Elderberries are a widespread genus, including 20 species. Flowers are white and numerous, borne in large terminal cymes. Corollas are regular and five-merous. Styles are very short atop an ovary divided into 3–5 locules. Fruit is a succulent berry. Unlike others in this family in NS, the leaves are pinnately compound.

### Key to species

- Inflorescence with 5 palmate rays, lacking a central axis, flat-topped. *Sambucus nigra*
- Inflorescence paniculate, central axis extending up through the flowers; pyramidal. *S. racemosus*

***Sambucus nigra* L.****(=*S. canadensis* L.)****Common Elder; sureau noir***Photo by Martin Thomas*

Distinct with the next species, in being our only genus of shrubs with opposite, pinnate leaves. Leaflets are serrate and elliptical, cuneate at the base and often glaucous below. Inflorescence is a cyme, the central axis absent. Fruit is purplish black and edible. Young twigs have white pith. Ours is ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli

Flowers 15 July to August.

Fertile soils along streams, at the edges of fields and forests.

Scattered throughout, most prevalent in the central counties.

Ranges from NS to MB, south to MT, CA and FL.

*Photo by David Mazerolle****Sambucus racemosa* L.****Red-berried Elder; sureau à grappes***Photo by Ross Hall*

It is primarily separated on the fruit colour and the shape of the inflorescence. This species has a pyramidal flower and fruit cluster, rather than the flat-topped cyme of Common Elder. Its fruit are red. The pith of the young twigs is brown. Leaves are similar to the previous species.

Flowers in June.

Shady sites in wet soils in fertile areas, forests and



Photo by Ross Hall



streamsides.

Common throughout mainland NS, less frequent in northern Cape Breton.

Ranges from NF to AK, south to CA, TN and GA. Absent from the arid plains.

CAUTION: BERRIES ARE POISONOUS.

### ***Symphoricarpos* Duhamel**

A North American genus, it includes nine species, including one in China and a single species introduced to NS. All are low-growing shrubs producing white or red drupes. The leaves are ovate to round, sometimes lobed or toothed and petiolate. Flowers are pink or white, in small terminal or axillary clusters. Flowers are five-merous and mostly regular. Ovaries have four locules, with several ovules, which are aborted. Drupes contain two stones.

#### ***Symphoricarpos alba* (L.) Blake** **Snowberry; Waxberry; symphorine blanche**



Photo by Ross Hall

A small puberulent shrub, it has ovate entire leaves. The pairs of campanulate flowers arise in the axils. Fruit clusters are of white waxy berries.

An ornamental from further west, it is to be expected around gardens and old dwellings.

Scattered throughout the province.





Native to CA and MT, cultivated eastward.

CAUTION: BERRIES ARE TOXIC.

***Triosteum* L.**  
**horse-gentian**

North American and Asian in distribution, only one of 10 species reaches NS. Tall coarse herbs, they have large sessile leaves. Flowers are borne in small clusters or singly in the leaf axils. Corolla is campanulate or tubular and maybe gibbous at the base. Flowers are five-merous, the ovary has only four locules, of which three are functional. Fruit is a dry drupe with three seeds.

***Triosteum aurantiacum* Nickn.**  
**Feverwort; Horse-gentian; trioste orangé**



*Photo by David Mazerolle*

A coarse plant, it is hirsute on the stem and upper surfaces of the leaves. Sessile, the leaves are clasping at the base and downy below. Fruits are also villous. The sessile flowers are reddish-purple, producing bright orange fruits.

Flowers in July.

Fertile soils along intervalles, riparian zones and limestone slopes.



*Photo by David Mazerolle*

Local in NS. Rare. Kemptown intervalle along the Salmon River and near New Glasgow. Occasional in Hants Co and in northern Cape Breton.

Ranges from NS to ON, south to WI, GA and IA.

STATUS: YELLOW-listed.

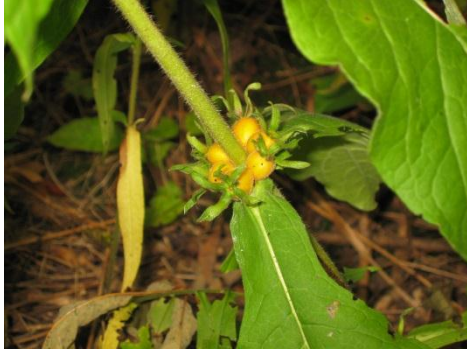
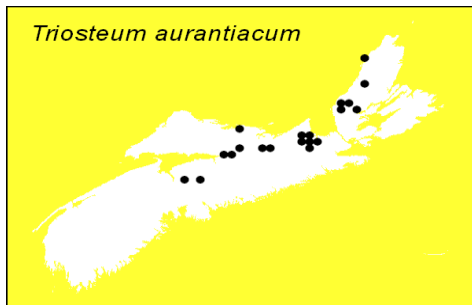


Photo by Sean Blaney



## ***Viburnum* L.**

Widespread in distribution, *Viburnum* includes about 250 species of shrubs and trees. All produce simple leaves and cymose inflorescences of small white flowers. Corollas are regular, or sometimes irregular along the edge of the inflorescence. Flowers are five-merous. Style is absent, the stigmata sessile on the ovaries. Fruits are drupes, with single seeds.

### Key to species

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Marginal flowers much larger than central ones, corollas irregular. | B                           |
| B. Leaves pinnately veined, not lobed.                                 | <i>Viburnum lantanoides</i> |
| bb. Leaves palmately veined, lobed.                                    | <i>V. opulus</i>            |
| aa. Flowers all the same.  | C                           |
| C. Leaves lobed.   | <i>V. edule</i>             |
| cc. Leaves not lobed.  | <i>V. nudum</i>             |

***Viburnum dentatum* L.** Southern Arrow-wood has been collected from Annapolis Royal but once. This plant probably hasn't established yet.

***Viburnum edule***

**Squashberry; Mooseberry; viorne comestible**



*Photo by Sean Blaney*

Leaves are distinctive, serrate and trilobed, glaucous below. Venation is palmately arranged, the veins puberulent below. Cymes are pedunculate, the flowers similar in size. Fruit is red. Two pairs of bud scales are present.

Flowers from May through August.

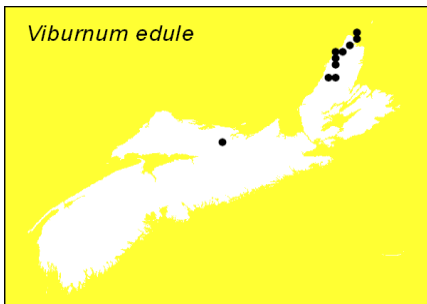
Usually in colder forests and streamsides. Characteristic of mature conifer forests.



*Photo by Sean Blaney*

Limited to northern Cape Breton.

Ranges from NL to AK, south to PA, CO and OR.



***Viburnum lantanoides* Michx.**  
 (= *Viburnum alnifolium* Marsh.)  
 Hobble-bush; viorne bois-d'original



Photo by Sean Blaney



Photo by Ross Hall



Photo by Sean Blaney

A low shrub, hobblebush is distinctive. The cordate leaves are acute and serrate. A secondary venation marks the leaves in parallel lines across the pinnate veins. The petioles and peduncles are densely brown tomentose, in addition to the lower leaf surfaces. There is a ring of sterile flowers at the margin of the inflorescence. These are much larger than the reduced fertile flowers within. Winter bud scales in two pairs.

Flowers from mid-May through to mid-June.

Fertile soils in mixed forests and along shady ravines. Especially prevalent in deciduous woods.

Infrequent in the southwest, common from Digby to Cape Breton.

Ranges from NS to ON, south to GA and TN.

***Viburnum nudum* L.****Witherod; Wild Raisin; viorne à cymes pédonculées; sginaganmusi**

Photo by Marian Munro

A familiar shrub, it produces lanceolate leaves which are shallowly toothed and marked by a pinnate venation. The central rib is prominent and often whitish. The leaves, twigs and flower stalks are minutely spotted with brown dots. Flowers are all similar, on ascending pedicels in pedunculate cymes. Witherod has a distinctive odour in fall, and the pairs of winter buds are long and rusty in colour. The blue berries are abundant but not flavourful raw. Ours is var. *cassinoides* (L.) Torr. & Gray.

Flowers late June to July 15.

Wet soils as in swamps, lowlands, on barrens and fallow fields. Widely tolerant.

Common throughout.

NF to ON, south to TX and FL..



Photo by Sean Blaney

***Viburnum opulus* L.****Cranberrybush**

Photo by Martin Thomas

Leaves are trilobed and serrate, distinctive with the presence of glands at the top of the petioles. Outer flowers of the cymes are sterile, exceeding the inner fertile ones in size. Clusters of drooping scarlet red berries are produced, persisting into the winter. The lower surface of the leaves are glabrous but for the veins and grooved petioles.

We have two varieties: the native var. *americanum* Aiton has the glands on the petioles stalked. And the European species, var. *opulus*, an introduction in the northeast has sessile petiolar glands.

Flowers during June and into July.

Understory shrub, along streams and in thickets.

Scattered from Annapolis and Cumberland counties to northern Cape Breton. Common in central Nova Scotia.

From NL to BC south to WY and IL; NM.