Fumariaceae
Fumitory Family

Closely allied with the poppies, this family of 400 species is represented here by only three species, in three genera. Several ornamentals may persist after cultivation. Historically *Adlumia fungosa*, was found at Point Pleasant Park in Halifax. It is unknown if this vine is persisting elsewhere.

Flowers are irregular, with two sepals and four petals, the inner ones dilating and forming a hood above the stigma. Stamens number six, filaments adnate in pairs opposite the outer petals. Nectary spurs are present. Inflorescences may be a racemose, paniculate or of single flowers. Fruit is generally a capsule. Leaves are alternate and finely divided in our species. The stems are brittle.

Key to genera

A. Corolla with 2 opposite petals spurred at the base; flowering only until early June.   *Dicentra*
aa. Corolla 1 petal spurred at the base; summer-flowering.   B
      B. Fruit oblong, with several seeds; flowers 10–15mm long.   *Corydalis*
      bb. Fruit round, single-seeded; flowers 5–7mm long.   *Fumaria*

Corydalis Vent.
Corydalis

Worldwide, there are about 300 species with a single one reaching NS. North-temperate in distribution, these delicate herbs have a single spurred outer petal. Flowers are of various shades of rose or pink, they are borne on pedicels in a raceme, subtended by a whorl of bracts.

Corydalis sempervirens (L.) Pers.
Pink Corydalis; corydale toujours verte

Photo by Sinnikka Jauensen

The slender stems may reach 60cm, erect and branching. Leaves are glaucous, becoming sessile towards the top and twice-pinnate. Their margins are ciliate. Flowers are borne in small terminal panicles. Corollas are pink with yellow tips, or white, and no more than 1.5cm in length. Fruits are erect 2–4cm long.

Photo by Sean Blaney

Flowers and fruit from June through September.

Most noticeable following fire or disturbance, especially on rocky soils with fertile pockets.

Scattered throughout the province, except along the Northumberland plain.

NF to AK, south to MT, IA and GA.

Dicentra Bernh.
Dutchman's-breeches

Dicentra includes some of the familiar pink-flowered bleeding-heart species. There are upwards of 20 North American and Asian species of *Dicentra* and a single species in NS. Inflorescence extends above the leaves on an arcuate scape. Corollas are cordate or oval, with the petals weakly connate. The outer two petals are expanded, while the inner pair are fused. Style is long, with a bifurcate stigma. Fruit is a capsule. As the individual flowers resemble little pairs of pants hanging on a line, so arose the vernacular name, a fanciful reference to styles of the past!

Dicentra cucullaria (L.) Bernh.
Dutchman's-breeches; dicentre à capuchon

Photo by Peter Neily

Leaves are pinnately divided into finely fringed leaflets, with a glaucous appearance. Scapes are slender and gracefully arching, 10–30cm in height, with a terminal raceme of white and yellow flowers.

Flowers from 20 May until the 10 June.

In rich deciduous forest soil and along intervales.

Photo by Sean Blaney

Most common in Colchester and Pictou counties and through the Cobequids, east to northern Cape Breton. Large colonies present on Cape Blomidon and the trail to Cape Split.

NS to MB, south to GA and OK; west coast.

Fumaria L.
Fumitory

Resembling *Corydalis*, but for its proximity to cultivation and the shape of the fruit. A Eurasian genus of 50 species, only one occasionally found in our province. Plants branch from a weak, reclining base. Flowers arise from the leaf axils.

Fumaria officinalis L.
Common Fumitory; fumeterre officinale

Photo by Sean Blaney

A tenuous plant, it has a sprawling messy habit. Finely divided leaves are borne on weak petioles. Flowers are tiny and purple-tinged.

July to August.

Found about gardens, where it persists after cultivation. Occasionally about ports where it has landed in ballast.

Queens County: Mill Village; Digby Co.: Westport; Guysborough Co. and Havre Boucher, Antigonish Co.

Widely introduced and persisting.

Photo by Martin Thomas

Fumaria officinalis

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