

## THE OHIO DOGBANES.

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### APOCYNACEAE. Dogbane Family.

Perennial erect or trailing herbs, shrubs, or vines; usually with milky acrid sap. Leaves simple, more commonly opposite, without stipules; flowers hypogenous, sympetalous, tetracyclic, with actinomorphic perianth; andrecium pentamerous, the stamens distinct, united with the corolla at least at the base; pollen not in masses; gynecium of two united carpels, but the ovularies separating below the style; fruit usually two follicles; seeds often appendaged with a tuft of long hairs.

#### Key to the Genera.

1. Flowers solitary, large, axillary; trailing herbs. *Vinca*.
1. Flowers cymose; erect herbs. *Apocynum*.

#### *Vinca* L. Periwinkle.

Perennial trailing herbs with opposite, evergreen leaves, and large, solitary, axillary flowers. Stem slightly woody; calyx segments acuminate; corolla salverformed, blue; stamens included; disk of 2 glands alternate with the two carpels; follicles with several ovules and seeds; seeds oblong-cylindric, without hairs.

***Vinca minor* L.** Periwinkle. Leaves glabrous oblong to ovate, entire, firm, shining, green on both sides, narrowed at the base, short petioled. Escaped from cemeteries and gardens. Huron, Montgomery, Vinton, Portage, Williams, Stark, Wayne, Coshoc-ton, Richland, Auglaize, Lawrence.

#### *Apocynum* L. Dogbane.

Perennial erect herbs with opposite, entire, leaves and white or pink flowers in corymbed cymes. Corolla usually campanulate, having five small triangular appendages within alternating with the stamens; follicles slender; long, terete, containing numerous ovules with tufts of long hairs.

#### Key to the Species.

1. Corolla much longer than the ovate pointed divisions of the calyx; branches diverging; flowers  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. 2.
1. Corolla not longer than the lanceolate divisions of the calyx; branches upright, ascending; terminal cyme not extending above the lateral branches; flowers small. 3-16 to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long. 3.
2. Corolla campanulate, recurved, not angled, pinkish, narrowed in the throat. *A. androsaemifolium*.
2. Corolla urceolate, five-angled, white or only slightly tinged with pink, spreading. *A. urceolifer*.
3. Leaves petioled. 4.
3. Leaves not petioled, lower ones more or less clasping, the upper ones sessile. *A. hypericifolium*.

4. Leaves and cymes smooth or very slightly pubescent. 5.
4. Leaves and cymes very densely pubescent. *A. pubescens*.
5. Leaves lanceolate to obovate, 2 to 4 times as long as wide; terminal cyme larger than the axillary; flowers greenish. *A. cannabinum*.
5. Leaves rather small lanceolate 4 to 6 times as long as wide; flowers white. *A. album*.

**1. *Apocynum androsaemifolium* L.** Spreading Dogbane. Dichotomously branched stems 1 to 5 feet high; root stalk horizontal, leaves ovate to obovate, usually twice as long as wide, glabrous and dark green above, more or less pubescent and light green beneath, short petioled with mucronate apex, and a broad base; cymes both terminal and axillary with short pedicled, campanulate, pink, sympetalous flowers with reflexed corolla segments. Common in fields and thickets. General.

**2. *Apocynum urceolifer* Mill.** Urnflowered Dogbane. Slender stems about 3 feet high with widely spreading branches; cymes small with white or slightly pink tinged flowers and spreading, pointed corolla segments; calyx segments lanceolate; leaves oblong, mucronate, slightly pubescent beneath. Along roadsides and fields. Auglaize County.

**3. *Apocynum cannabinum* L.** Indian Hemp. Stems 3 to 5 feet high with erect or ascending branches and long verticle roots; leaves lanceolate to oblanceolate, apex mucronate, base of upper ones acute while the lower ones are often rounded, short petioled, 4 to 5 inches long,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, glabrous above, sometimes pubescent beneath, cymes dense, short pediceled, with bracts at the base and greenish white flowers. Common in fields and waste places. General.

**4. *Apocynum album* Greene.** River-bank Dogbane. Glabrous stems with lanceolate, smooth, petioled, acute leaves 4 to 6 times as long as wide; cymes dense with small white flowers. River banks and moist fields. Coshocton, Lake, Butler, Mercer, Montgomery, Clermont, Holmes.

**5. *Apocynum hypericifolium* Ait.** Claspingleaf Dogbane. Stems glabrous often glaucous, 1 to 2 feet high with ascending branches, leaves oblong to oblanceolate, upper ones very short petioled or sessile, lower ones clasping; cymes dense, bracted, with pedicles about as long as the flowers; calyx segments lanceolate acute. In dry soil, especially in sandy places. Erie, Ashtabula.

**6. *Apocynum pubescens* R.** Br. Velvet Dogbane. Entire plant densely velvety pubescent; ascending branches with ovate to oblong, mucronate leaves often twice as long as wide and obtuse at the base; venation strongly impressed in the velvety under surface; calyx segments lanceolate, acute; corolla purple, lobes erect. In waste places and flood planes near streams. Franklin, Auglaize, Harrison, Adams.