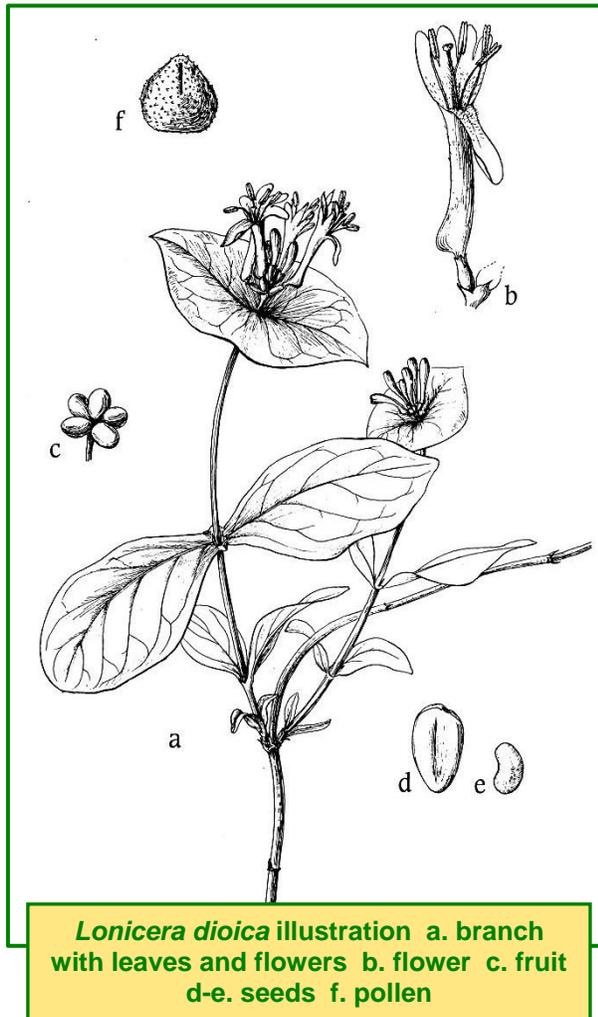


Scientific Name: *Lonicera dioica* L. var. *glaucescens* (Rydb.) Butter
Family: *Caprifoliaceae*

Common Names: twining honeysuckle, limber honeysuckle



***Lonicera dioica* illustration a. branch with leaves and flowers b. flower c. fruit d-e. seeds f. pollen**

Plant Description

Woody vein stems 1 to 3 m tall, twining, bark shredding; leaves opposite, deciduous, oval to oblong, 5 to 8 cm long, upper surface smooth, underside hairy; lower leaves short-stalked, upper leaves stalkless; upper pair may be fused to form a cup around the stem; flower cluster spike 3 to 9 flowers, yellow to reddish orange, tubular 1.5 to 2.5 cm long, five sepals, five petals (Moss 1983, Royer and Dickinson 2007).

Fruit: Red berry 5 to 8 mm across (Royer and Dickinson 2007).

Habitat and Distribution

Open woods, rocky slopes, fence lines (Moss 1983, Royer and Dickinson 2007). Prefers shade (Inkpen and Van Eyk n.d.).

Soil: Can tolerate xeric to subhydryc moisture regime (E-Flora BC 2013).

Distribution: Southwestern District of Mackenzie, southeastern British Columbia to Quebec south to Alberta, Nebraska, Oklahoma, North Carolina (Moss 1983).

Phenology

Flowers from May to July, seeds ripen July to September, seeds can disperse from June to October (Young and Young 1992).

Pollination

Insect and humming bird pollinated like many other *Lonicera* species (Gould pers. comm., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 2012).

Seed Dispersal

Fructivores; fruit is eaten by birds (Tannas 1997).

Genetics

$2n=18$ (Moss 1983).

Seed Processing

Collection: Fruit should be handpicked or stripped from branches soon after ripening to prevent losses from wildlife consumption (Young and Young 1992).

Seed Weight: 20 seeds/g or 50 g/1,000 seeds (Young and Young 1992).

Harvest Dates: July to October (Young and Young 1992).

Cleaning: Maceration and floatation to recover seeds; dry completely before storing (Young and Young 1992).

Storage Behaviour: Not proven but thought to be Orthodox; seeds can be dried, without damage, to low moisture contents; their longevity increases with reductions in both moisture content and temperature (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2008).

Storage: Dried seed can be stored in sealed containers at cool temperature (Young and Young 1992).

Longevity: Reported to have little loss in viability when stored in sealed containers at cool temperatures for 15 years (Young and Young 1992).



Lonicera dioica blooming

Propagation

Natural Regeneration: By seed (Young and Young 1992).

Germination: Epigeal germination (Young and Young 1992).

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (2008) achieved 80% germination seeds when germinated on a 1% agar media at temperatures of 20/10°C (8 hours day / 16 night) with pre-treatments.

Bonner and Karrfalt (2008) report 90% germination after 80 to 100 days at 30°C day / 20°C night on sand.

Pre-treatment: Cold stratification (Young and Young 1992); cold-moist stratification (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 2012). Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (2008) treated the seed with a cold stratification for 8 weeks at 5°C followed by a warm stratification at 20°C for 4 weeks, then scarified using a scalpel.

Direct Seeding: *Lonicera sp.* are sown either by broadcast seeding or in drill rows in the fall or in the spring with pre-treated seeds (Young and Young 1992). Seeds should be sown 0.6 cm deep in a mulched bed (Young and Young 1992).

Vegetative Propagation: Most *Lonicera* species can be propagated by cuttings (Bonner and Karrfalt 2008, Young and Young 1992).

Aboriginal/Food Uses

Medicinal: Stems used as a diuretic, to treat heart ailments; roots used to treat bladder problems and constipation (Marles et al. 2000).

Wildlife/Forage Usage

Wildlife: Berries are eaten by birds (Droppo 1987); poor forage only used when no other food sources are present (Tannas 1997).



Lonicera dioica with berries

Livestock: Not generally consumed by livestock (Tannas 1997).

Grazing Response: Increases but not invasive (Tannas 1997).

Reclamation Potential

Valuable for erosion control and species diversity (Young and Young 1992).

Commercial Resources

Availability: Not available in Alberta.

Notes

Synonym is *L. glaucescens* (E-Flora BC 2013, USDA NRCS n.d.).

Lonicera dioica is listed as 84% intact (less occurrences than expected) in the Alberta oil sands region (Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute 2014).

Photo Credits

Photo 1: Kay Yatskievych 2003. @ www.discoverlife.org.

Photo 2: William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database.

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