

MENISPERMACEAE – MOONSEED FAMILY

Plant: woody vines, rarely shrubs or trees

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: simple or less commonly with 3 leaflets, alternate, entire or palmately lobed; no stipules

Flowers: unisexual (dioecious); small, sepals and petals similar, usually 4 or 6 or absent – many exceptions, greenish to greenish white; usually 4-6 or many stamens, may be fused; ovary superior, 1-3-6 to many carpels

Fruit: achene or drupe, 1 seed

Other: common in tropics, some in temperate areas; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 78+ genera;

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Carolina Coralbead [Moonseed]; *Cocculus carolinus* (L.) DC.
[Common] Moonseed; *Menispermum canadense* L.

Carolina Coralbead [Moonseed]

Cocculus carolinus (L.) DC.

Menispermaceae (Moonseed Family)

Clearwater Lake, Wayne County, Missouri

Notes: vine; flowers greenish-yellow, in clusters, monoecious; leaves alternate, simple, mostly unlobed to somewhat lobed, mostly triangular (some variation), hairy below, tip acute to rounded, petiole attachment usually at an angle; stem twining; fruit a bright, glossy berry in clusters; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



[Common] Moonseed

Menispermum canadense L.

Menispermaceae (Moonseed Family)

Pokagon State Park, Steuben County, Indiana

Notes: vine; flowers greenish-white, small, in loose clusters, dioecious; leaves large, entire to somewhat lobed, usually a cordate base, petiole is attached to bottom of leaf near the margin (somewhat peltate); stem without tendrils; fruit blue to black, usually a glaucous berry; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]

