

## 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;

## **MENISPERMACEAE – MOONSEED FAMILY**

Cupseed; *Calyccarpum lyonii* (Pursh) A. Gray  
Carolina Coralbead [Moonseed]; *Cocculus carolinus* (L.) DC.  
[Common] Moonseed; *Menispermum canadense* L.

# Cupseed

*Calycoctarpum lyonii* (Pursh) A. Gray  
Menispermaceae (Moonseed Family)  
Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area,  
Christian County, Missouri

Notes: vine; flowers greenish-white, 6 sepals (no petals); leaves large, shape varies but often wider than long, normally 3-5-7 lobed, petiole attaches to leaf at edge of leaf, base cordate; stem without tendrils; fruit (2-3 cm) turns black with age, seed margins erose, scooped out on one side hence the common name 'Cupseed'; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2010]



# Carolina Coralbead [Moonseed]



*Cocculus carolinus* (L.) DC.

Menispermaceae (Moonseed Family)

Alley Springs, Ozark National Riverways, Shannon  
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, seed coral-like; summer

[V Max Brown, 2010]



# [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 (~ 1cm), usually a glaucous berry; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]

