

SAXIFRAGACEAE – SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

Plant: mostly herbs, sometimes shrubs or trees

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: mostly basal or alternate, or sometimes opposite or almost anything else; no stipules

Flowers: mostly perfect; sepals mostly 5 (3-10); petals usually same number as sepals, often clawed, or petals may be absent; stamens 5 or 10; ovary superior or inferior, 2-3 styles, few to many ovules

Fruit: pod, capsule or berry, seeds numerous

Other: complex group with many genera; related to the Rose family, seeds differ; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 30+ genera; locally *Heuchera* (alum-root), *Saxifraga*

Flower Morphology in the Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

5 petals and sepals, leaves mostly basal; complex group



[Eastern] Swamp Saxifrage



Two-Leaved Mitrewort [Bishop's-Cap]



[Common, American] Alumroot

SAXIFRAGACEAE – SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

- [Common, American] Alumroot; *Heuchera americana* L. var. *hirsuticaulis* (Wheelock) Rosend., Butters & Lakela
- Littleflower Alumroot; *Heuchera parviflora* Bartlett var. *puberula* (Mack. & Bush) E.F. Wells
- Two-Leaved Mitrewort [Bishop's-Cap]; *Mitella diphylla* L.
- Fen [American] Grass of Parnassus; *Parnassia glauca* Raf.
- [Eastern] Swamp Saxifrage; *Saxifraga pensylvanica* L.
- Early Saxifrage; *Saxifraga virginensis* Michx. var. *virginensis*
- Sullivant's Coolwort [Sullivantia]; *Sullivantia sullivantii* (Torr. & A. Gray) Britton
- Heartleaf Foamflower [False Miterwort]; *Tiarella cordifolia* L.
- Palmer's Saxifrage; *Saxifraga palmeri* Bush

[Common, American] Alumroot

Heuchera americana L. var. *hirsuticaulis*

(Wheelock) Rosend., Butters & Lakela

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (symmetrical) flower, not solitary, greenish or white, 5 stamens with orange anthers, stamens strongly exerted; mostly basal leaves on long hairy petioles, cordate with many blunt lobes, dark green veins, stem leaves or not; stem with dense long hairs; woods; spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Littleflower Alumroot

Heuchera parviflora Bartlett var.
puberula (Mack. & Bush) E.F. Wells

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)
Alley Springs, Ozark National Riverways,
Shannon County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, densely hairy (not glandular); leaves basal on petioles, cordate with many blunt lobes (mucronulate), very soft hairy above and below, leaf surface reddish-purple below; stem with dense glandular hairs; often on N or E facing bluffs; early to late fall (*H. villosa* similar, all hairs glandular)

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Two-Leaved Mitrewort [Bishop's-Cap]



Mitella diphylla L.

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve, Fulton County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, deeply fringed; 1 pair of stem leaves (exceptions occur), 3-5 lobed, nearly sessile with acute tip, basal leaves 3-5 lobed with long petioles; stem with fine hairs; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Fen [American] Grass of Parnassus



Parnassia glauca Raf.

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Goose Creek Grasslands, Lenawee County,
Michigan

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, usually with
green veins; all leaves cordate and entire,
usually 1 sessile stem leaf and a rosette of basal
leaves; stem glabrous; fens, swamps and wet
limy meadows; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2009]



[Eastern] Swamp Saxifrage

Saxifraga pensylvanica L.

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower, greenish-white, white to rarely purple, not dotted;
leaves basal and lanceolate, entire or only slightly toothed, relatively long
with larger leaves 15cm+, no stem leaves or stipules usually; stem stout
and with dense hairs; swamps or wet ground; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Early Saxifrage

Saxifraga virginiensis Michx. var. *virginiensis*

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Pickle Springs Natural Area, St. Genevieve

County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, on a long very hairy scape; leaves basal, hairy, somewhat thick and fleshy, leaf blade oval to deltoid and narrowing to a short petiole, with crenate teeth often forming a scalloped edge look; bluffs and rock outcrops in woods, often 30-40+ cm in height; spring

[V Max Brown, 2012]



Sullivant's Coolwort [Sullivantia]

Sullivantia sullivantii (Torr. & A. Gray) Britton

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Davis Memorial Nature Preserve, Adams County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, very small, deeply fringed, inflorescence branching, with glandular hairs; mostly basal leaves, reniform to ovate, numerous lobes with 2-3 teeth each, mostly glabrous; mostly on wet, shaded cliffs; summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Heartleaf Foamflower [False Miterwort]

Tiarella cordifolia L.

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Shawnee State Forest, Scioto County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, stamens protruding, on a crowded spike on a long scape; leaves mostly basal, cordate, with 5 to 7 toothed lobes; stem stout and with dense hairs; woods; spring

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Palmer's Saxifrage

Saxifraga palmeri Bush

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Heber Springs, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Notes: 5-petaled flower, white, on a long very hairy scape; leaves mostly basal, mostly entire, hairy, somewhat thick and fleshy, leaf blade oval to deltoid and narrowing to a short petiole, mostly entire; woods, low plant; spring

[V Max Brown, 2010]

