

SMILACACEAE – GREENBRIER (CATBRIER) FAMILY

Plant: mostly woody vines, some herbs and shrubs

Stem: often with tendrils, spines common in some

Root: often with tubers

Leaves: evergreen, mostly simple, alternate (sometimes opposite) and entire; one veined or mostly 3-7 curved, parallel main veins with net veins between; tendrils often present, stipules present or not

Flowers: mostly dioecious, some perfect; flower parts (tepals) in 3's in 2 cycles of 6; stamens vary but often 6; ovary superior

Fruit: berry, 1-6 but often 3 seeds

Other: Carrion Flower is the only non-woody greenbrier in the area;
Monocotyledons Group

Genera: 3-12 (uncertain); locally *Smilax* (greenbrier or catbrier)

SMILACACEAE – GREENBRIER (CATBRIER) FAMILY

- Saw [Fringed] Greenbrier; *Smilax bona-nox* L.
Upright Carrion-Flower; *Smilax ecirrhata* (Engelm. Ex Kunth) S. Watson
Cat Greenbrier [Sawbrier]; *Smilax glauca* Walter
Smooth Carrion-Flower; *Smilax herbacea* L.
Illinois Greenbrier; *Smilax illinoensis* Mangaly
Round Leaved [Common] Greenbrier; *Smilax rotundifolia* L.
Bristly Greenbrier [Catbrier]; *Smilax tamnoides* L.

Saw [Fringed] Greenbrier

Smilax bona-nox L.

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Tybee Island, Georgia

Notes: flower with 6 tepals, greenish; leaves alternate, simple, often hastate (arrowhead shaped) or at least with a deltoid base, leaf margins thickened and spinose, tip sharp-pointed; stem green, at least 1+ angled and spinose; fruits dark blue to black; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Upright Carrion-Flower

Smilax ecirrhata (Engelm. ex
Kunth) S. Watson

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve, Fulton
County, Ohio

Notes: flower with 6 tepals, greenish, in umbels
(less than 20 flowers usually), peduncle long
with bract at base, flowers below leaves; leaves
cordate to ovate and truncate, usually with no
tendrils; fruit a berry; upright plant, woods;
spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Cat Greenbrier [Sawbrier]

Smilax glauca Walter

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; 6 tepal flower; leaves entire, generally ovate, shiny above and whitened below (varieties based on glabrous or hairy below); stem slender, green turning brownish, round, slender prickles irregularly present; fruit a blue to black berry; usually found in woods

[V Max Brown, 2008]



Smooth Carrion-Flower

Smilax herbacea L.

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Farnsworth Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; flower with 6 tepals, greenish to white, in umbel, peduncle very long; leaves ovate to cordate, whitened or glaucous beneath; non-woody climbing species with tendrils, no prickles or spines; fruits dark blue and smooth in dense umbel; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Illinois Greenbrier

Smilax illinoensis Mangaly
Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)
Goll Woods State Nature Preserve,
Fulton County, Ohio



Notes: flower with 6 tepals, greenish, in umbels (greater than 20 flowers usually), peduncle long with bract at base, flowers below leaves; leaves ovate and truncate, with tendrils at only upper leaf nodes; fruit a berry; upright plant, woods; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Round Leaved [Common]

Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia L.

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; 6 tepal flower; leaves entire, shiny above and green below; stem green, stout, strongly round or 4-angled, many large flattened prickles especially on lower stem; fruit a blue to black berry; usually found in woods

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Bristly Greenbrier [Catbrier]

Smilax tamnoides L.

Smilacaceae (Greenbrier Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: vine; lower 'woody' part densely covered with black bristles and spines; leaves alternate, ovate to cordate (variable), mostly entire but sometimes fine teeth present, tip sharp or rounded; fruit of berries, black without whitish bloom, in umbels; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2004]

