

CALYCANTHUS FLORIDUS  
Sweet-shrub

FAMILY: Calycanthaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Calycanthus nanus* Loisel  
*Calycanthus floridus* L. var. *laevigatus* (Willd.) T. & G.  
*Calycanthus floridus* L. var. *oblongifolius* (Nutt.) D.E. Boufford & S.A.  
Spongberg  
*Calycanthus fertilis*

HABIT: Deciduous shrub to 3 m.; flowering June, July; fruiting July, August, fruits persisting on twigs for a year or more.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Calycanthus fertilis* is closely related to and possibly confused with *C. floridus*, which is widely planted as an ornamental and may occur in Ohio woodlands as an escape. The twigs, petioles, and lower leaf surfaces of *C. fertilis* are glabrous. The twigs, petioles, and lower leaf surfaces of *C. floridus* are conspicuously pubescent.

TOTAL RANGE: s. NY, s. PA and s. OH, to GA, nw. FL, and se. MS

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): MEIGS CO.: Salem Twp., 3 mi. sw. of Salem Center, Spring 1934, C.H. Jones (OS, 2 sheets).

STATE STATUS: 1980-1983: Endangered, 1984 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: On slopes and in covers of mesic woods, and on rich moist soil along streams.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but possibly opening of the forest canopy by logging.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: This species possibly could be reintroduced by planting in its native habitat. The closely related *C. floridus* thrives in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Observation of the lower leaf surface is important to the identification of this species.

COMMENTS: The Meigs County location lies approximately 120 miles from the nearest native stands to the south and east. It is within the drainage area of the pre-glacial Teays River. *C. fertilis* (under the name *C. nanus*) was suggested as one of many plants that could have migrated north along this drainage system (Transeau, 1941). Wolfe (1942) reiterated this and added that the plant could have been made rare and isolated by the subsequent flooding of Lake Tight. It should be sought in extreme southern Ohio on wooded slopes, especially those facing south, and along streams.

*C. fertilis* is treated as a variety of *C. floridus* by some authors (see Synonyms). Under this concept, it has long been known as *C. floridus* var. *laevigatus*. However, a recent publication asserts that the correct name for this entity is *C. floridus* var. *oblongifolius* (Boufford and Spongberg, 1981). Whether treated as a

separate species or as a variety, it is agreed that this entity is distinct from the typical variety of *C. floridus*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

- Boufford, D.E. and S.A. Spongberg. 1981. *Calycanthus floridus* (Calycanthaceae) - a nomenclatural note. *J. Arn. Arb.* 62: 265- 266.
- Burns, J.F. 1984. *Calycanthus fertilis* Walter extirpated from Ohio (abstr.). *Oh. J. Sci.* 84(2): 9.
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- Nicely, K.A. 1965. A monographic study in the Calycanthaceae. *Castanea* 30: 38-81.
- Transeau, E.N. 1941. Prehistoric factors in the development of the vegetation of Ohio. *Oh. J. Sci.* 41: 207-211.
- Wolfe, J.N. 1942. Species isolation and a proglacial lake in southern Ohio. *Oh. J. Sci.* 42: 2-11.



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