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


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:


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