

LONICERA FLAVA Sims
Pale Yellow Honeysuckle

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae.

SYNONYM: *Lonicera flava* Sims var. *flavescens* (Small) Gleason; *Lonicera flavida* Cockerell

HABIT: Twining, loosely ascending or reclining woody vine; flowering May; fruiting June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles both *Lonicera dioica* and *L. reticulata*. The flowers of *L. flava* are more brightly colored than those of the preceding species. Close examination of leaf and flower characteristics is required to distinguish between these species of honeysuckle.

TOTAL RANGE: S. MO, KY, and OH, s. to NC, GA, and AR.

STATE RANGE: CLERMONT CO.: rocky woods or banks, Milford, 20 May 1911, E.L. Braun (CINC). Braun (1961, p. 323) indicates that this specimen was collected "from gravel bluffs (calcareous) of the Little Miami River".

HABITAT: Open woods, banks, river bluffs; usually in calcareous substrates.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good; other honeysuckles grow well in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with flowers or fruits.

COMMENTS: This species closely resembles other honeysuckles found in southwest Ohio (see Similar Species). It could easily be overlooked or misidentified. Appropriate habitats in southwest Ohio should be searched for this species. It well may be extant in Ohio. *Lonicera flava* may be of hybrid origin. The relationships between this and other honeysuckle in the southeast U.S. needs careful study to determine the true status of this taxon.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Duncan, W.H. 1967. Woody vines of the southeastern United States. Sida 3: 1-76.

Rehder, A. 1910. *Lonicera prolifera* and *Lonicera flavida*. Rhodora 12: 166-167.



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