

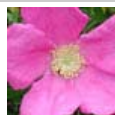
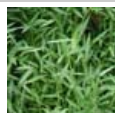


## Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

### Catalog of Species Search Results



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



## *Cynanchum louiseae*

(Black Swallow-wort  
Dog-strangle Vine )

[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

### COMMON NAME

Black Swallow-wort  
Dog-strangle Vine

### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Cynanchum louiseae* Kartesz & Ghandi

### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Milkweed family

### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Asclepiadaceae

### IMAGES



Comparison of  
flowers of  
*Cynanchum  
louiseae* (top)  
and *Cynanchum  
rossicum*



Close-up of fruit



Habitat

(bottom)



Incursion

Close-up of  
flowers

Twining vines



Seedlings



Dehiscing seeds

## NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

**Synonyms:** *Vincetoxicum nigrum* (L.) Moench  
*Cynanchum nigrum* (L.) Pers. non Cav.

## DESCRIPTION

### Botanical Glossary

*Cynanchum louiseae* is an herbaceous, perennial vine, growing up to 2 m (6.5 ft.) in length. It has an unbranched and twining habit. Its dark green leaves are opposite and have entire margins, are glabrous and shiny, and have short petioles. The leaves are ovate or ovate-lanceolate in shape, are 5-13 cm (2-5 in.) long and 1.25-6 cm (0.5-2.5 in.) wide.

Clusters of 6-10 flowers are produced in opposite, axillary cymes from June to September; peduncles are 0.5-3 cm (0.2-1.2 in.) long. The 5-lobed corolla is dark purple in color. The fleshy corolla lobes are shaped like an equilateral triangle, 1.5-3 mm (0.05-0.1 in.) in length, with short straight, white hairs on the upper surface. A minutely toothed corona is weakly 5-lobed, its segments joined by a connective membrane that is 2/3 the height of the corona. Fruits are slender, elliptical follicles, 4-7 cm (1.5-2.75 in.) in length, similar to that of milkweed but narrower. Immature pods are green, turning brown with maturity. Seeds are brown, flattened, 5-7 mm (0.2-0.3 in.) in length and ovoid. They have a membranous wing along the margin and a tuft of white hairs at the narrow end. Stems persist at the end of the season, frequently bearing open pods with some seeds remaining inside.

Page References Fernald 1176, Gleason & Cronquist 399, Holmgren 374, Magee & Ahles 845, Newcomb 326, Peterson & McKenny 390. See reference section below for full citations.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Cynanchum rossicum* (Kleopov) Barbarich (Pale swallow-wort)

The chart below allows for differentiation between *Cynanchum louiseae* and *Cynanchum rossicum*.

For images and more information about *C. rossicum* click [here](#) (IPANE catalog of species page).

Character	<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i>	<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i>
Shape of corolla lobes	Deltoid	2x as long as broad
Corolla lobe color	Dark purple	Pale yellow-purple to reddish Pale yellow/purple to reddish purple
Inner corolla lobe surface	Pubescent with short white hairs	Glabrous

### REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

The seeds of *Cynanchum louiseae* are dispersed primarily by wind. If they fall into moving water they float and are transported downstream.

### DISTRIBUTION

*Cynanchum louiseae* is native to Europe where it occurs in different habitats than the very similar *C. rossicum*. In Canada, *Cynanchum louiseae* has been reported from Quebec and Ontario. In the United States its range extends from the Atlantic coast to the mid west and as far south as Kentucky and Missouri. It is present in all New England States.

### HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Although its history of introduction is uncertain, the first record for *Cynanchum louiseae* is from Cambridge, Massachusetts (Middlesex County) where it was collected in 1878. It may have come from the Harvard Botanic Garden. *Cynanchum louiseae* either subsequently spread throughout New England or was planted elsewhere: there are early records from Rhode Island and Vermont in 1880 and Connecticut and Maine in 1901.

### HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Abandoned Field  
 Early Successional Forest  
 Edge  
 Floodplain Forest  
 Forest Wetland

Pasture  
Planted Forest  
Roadside  
Utility Right-of-Way  
Vacant Lot  
Wet Meadow  
Yard or Garden

*Cynanchum louiseae* can be found in many habitats, including woodlands, fields, and along roadsides, floodplains, urban areas and utility rights-of-way. It grows well in almost any upland situation.

## THREATS

*Cynanchum louiseae* is a vine that can grow rapidly and cover native vegetation. It also has the ability to dominate the understory of a woodland. Wind-dispersed seeds allow it to disperse over long distances. When it is cut, this plant resprouts vigorously, making control difficult.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Specific photograph or mounted snippet of the stem with flowers.

Best time for documentation: Late spring, summer.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conservation New England](#)

Historical distribution map of Massachusetts

[Rhode Island Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey and National Agricultural Pest Information System](#)

Brief discription of *C. louiseae* and control measures

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\)](#)

General taxonomic information

[The PLANTS Database](#)

Distribution information and additional links

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[Invasive Plant Council of New York State](#)

## REFERENCES

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## DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

Submit Selection

## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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