



WILD YAM

Dioscorea villosa L.

This vine often is found in roadside thickets and along forest borders where it twines and climbs on and over shrubs, small trees, and fences. Heart-shaped leaves are hairy on the lower surface, and while mostly borne singly, the lowest ones are in whorls or pairs. Male and female inflorescences are widely branched with many minute flowers. The fruit is a three-winged capsule about an inch in length; fruiting clusters often are collected for dried arrangements. *Dioscorea batatas*, the Cinnamon Vine, a non-native species that never flowers and usually bears small tubers in the leaf axils, also is regularly encountered (Dioscoreaceae, the Yam Family).