

Apocynaceae (Milkweed Family) Key
Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador
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- 1a. Flowers with campanulate, 5-lobed, white or pink-striped corollas; pistils 2, attached at the tip (by the 2-lobed stigma), but free along the sides; fruit a pair of long slender follicles on a single peduncle (*Apocynum*). **2**
- 1b. Flowers with highly modified sexual parts; corolla 5-lobed, pink to purple; filaments modified into a corona with 5 hoods, each with an incurved horn arching over a stylar head formed by fusion of the style and stigma; pistils 2; fruit a narrow ovoid follicle with a tapering apex, the surface downy-pubescent and covered with short, thick, spine-like projections; an introduced weed species. ***Asclepias syriaca*** (common milkweed)

- 2a. Leaves spreading, short-petiolate, blades oblong to ovate, 5–10 cm long; flowers in nodding cymes; corolla white with pink stripes inside the corolla.
..... ***Apocynum androsaemifolium*** (spreading dogbane)
- 2b. Leaves ascending, sessile, blades lanceolate-oblong, 4–9 cm long; flowers in erect cymes; corolla milky-white, not striped inside the corolla.
..... ***Apocynum cannabinum*** var. ***hypericifolium*** (hemp dogbane)

Apocynaceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> var. <i>hypericifolium</i>	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
	spreading dogbane	hemp dogbane	common milkweed
Leaves	plants mainly glabrous ; leaves short-petiolate, blades lanceolate-ovate , apices mucronate; 6–10 cm long; stems often reddish-purple	plants glabrous ; leaves sessile, blades lanceolate ; apices acute, 4–9 cm long; stems often reddish	plants downy-pubescent ; leaves short-petiolate, blades oval-oblong ; 10–25 cm long, midrib often reddish
Flowers	several in nodding cymes ; calyx 5-lobed; corolla open-campanulate, white, striped pink inside , 6–9 mm long, corolla lobes 5, reflexed	several in erect cymes ; calyx 5-lobed; corolla narrow-campanulate, milky-white , 2–4 mm long, corolla lobes 5, erect	numerous flowers in large umbels of 5-merous flowers; calyx and corolla 5-lobed, pink to purple , corolla lobes reflexed
Stamens	anthers 5, triangular, connate around the stigma		filaments fused, forming a corona of 5 hoods, each with an incurved horn that arches over an enlarged styler head , formed by the fused style and stigma
Pistil	2 distinct pistils , fused at the tip by the common stigma		
Follicles	pairs of pendant narrowly lanceoloid follicles , surface glabrous ; 7–20 cm long	pairs of pendant narrowly lanceoloid follicles , surface glabrous ; 4–10 cm long	ovoid follicles , tapering to a blunt tip; surface downy, with short spine-like bumps ; 7–10 cm long