

Comandraceae (Bastard Toadflax Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Flowers numerous, in terminal panicle of small cymes; calyx lobes 4–5, white; petals absent; stamens 4–5, alternate with the calyx lobes, ovary topped by a nectariferous disk; fruit a dry nut, enclosed with the persistent calyx, greenish to grayish-brown.
 ***Comandra umbellata*** (bastard toadflax)
- 1b. Flowers 2–4, on axillary peduncles; calyx lobes 4–5, greenish purple; petals absent; stamens 4–5, opposite the calyx lobe; fruit a fleshy drupe, bright orange.
 ***Geocaulon lividum*** (northern Comandra)

Comandraceae Comparison Chart

Species:	<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>
	bastard toadflax	northern comandra
Leaves	alternate, simple, sessile; oblong to oblanceolate , 1–3.5 cm long; apices blunt, base attenuate; margins entire	alternate, simple, sessile; lanceolate, elliptic, to oblanceolate , 1–3 cm long; apices blunt, base attenuate; margins entire
Inflorescence	terminal panicle of several small flowers , all bisexual	axillary clusters of 2–4 flowers ; the central flower bisexual, lateral flowers staminate
Flowers	calyx lobes 4–5, lanceolate, white, 2–3 mm long ; petals absent	calyx lobes 4–5, triangular, greenish-purple, 1–1.5 mm long ; petals absent
Stamens	stamens 4–5, alternate to the calyx lobes	stamens 4–5, opposite the calyx lobes
Fruit	a dry, green to grayish-brown dry nut , 4–6 mm in diam.	a fleshy, bright orange drupe , 6–10 mm diam.