

Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*)

Also called: Cinnamon vine, *Dioscorea batatas*

Family name: Yam (Dioscoreaceae)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

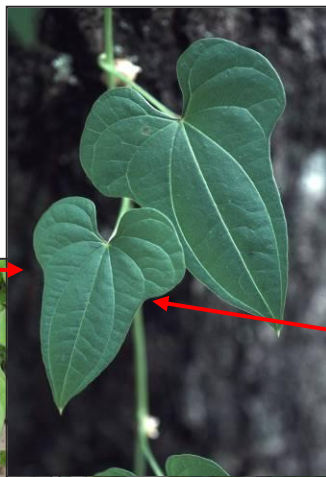
General description:

- Perennial, herbaceous, twining vine or groundcover
- Deep, persistent, root-like tuber up to 3' long that resprouts annually
- On stem, above ground tubers (bulbils), which resemble small potatoes



Leaves:

- Oval to heart-shaped
- Mature leaves concave at sides
- Opposite, occasionally alternate or whorled towards branch tips
- Young leaves can be bronze colored
- Reddish-purple colored along the leaf margins, petioles, and stems
- 7 to 9 veins
- 1.5"-3" long



Concave leaf edges

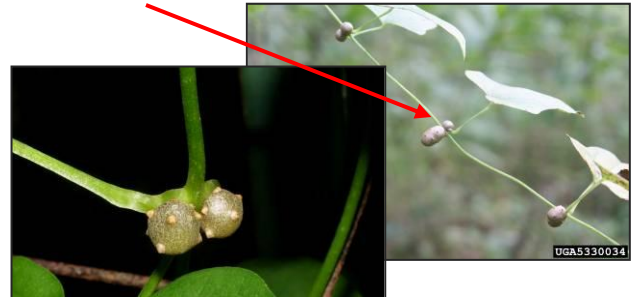
Flowers:

- Small, white to greenish-yellow
- Appearing in leaf axils on a spike
- Cinnamon fragrance
- Blooms in July



Fruit:

- Papery, three-sided capsules
- Also produces small tubers (bulbils) at leaf axils
- Spread through distribution of bulbils



Habitat:

- Forest, riparian areas, and landscaping
- Part-sun to shade

Commercial availability: No

Look-alikes:

Wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*)

- Native, twining vine of forest or forest edge
- Heart-shaped leaves, convex at sides
- Lacks above-ground tubers

Wild yam, colic-root (*Dioscorea quaternata*)

- Native, twining vine of forests or forest edges
- Heart-shaped leaves, convex at sides
- Lacks above-ground tubers

Native wild yam seed capsules look similar to Chinese yam

Native wild yam convex leaf edges

