

VIOLACEAE violet family

Viola L. violet

Low perennial herbs. Leaves alternate or basal, simple, stipulate. Flowers 5-merous, irregular, solitary, on slender-bracted peduncles rising from crown of rhizome, or from leaf axils. Flowers usually of two kinds; early flowers showy, with lateral petals often bearded, and with lowermost and largest petals spurred and often bearded in the throat; later flowers smaller and cleistogamous; sepals in early flowers auricled at base; fruit a 3-valved capsule containing numerous seeds.

- A. Plants with leafy stems (some very short)
 - B. Petals yellow or white
 - C. Petals yellow *V. biflora*
 - C. Petals white, yellow at base *V. canadensis* ssp. *rydbergii*
 - B. Petals blue to violet
 - D. Flowers large, 16–25 mm long *V. langsdorfii*
 - D. Flowers smaller, 5–15 mm long *V. adunca*
- A. Plants stemless
 - E. Petals white with purple veins *V. renifolia* var. *brainerdii*
 - E. Petals violet to lilac
 - F. Leaves strigose above *V. selkirkii*
 - F. Leaves glabrous or puberulent above
 - G. Rhizomes thick; stolons absent *V. nephrophylla*
 - G. Rhizomes slender; stolons often present *V. epipsila* ssp. *repens*



leafy stem



plants stemless