

# HOW TO KNOW THE WILD FLOWERS

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## A Guide

TO THE NAMES, HAUNTS, AND HABITS OF OUR  
COMMON WILD FLOWERS

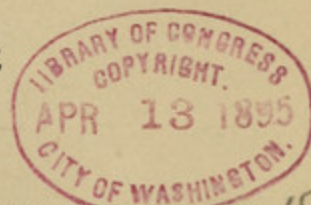
BY

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ILLUSTRATED BY

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*Frances T. Parsons.*



"The first conscious thought about wild flowers was to find out their names—the first conscious pleasure—and then I began to see so many that I had not previously noticed. Once you wish to identify them, there is nothing escapes, down to the little white chickweed of the path and the moss of the wall."

—RICHARD JEFFERIES

199050

REVISED AND ENLARGED EDITION

*Twenty-seventh Thousand*

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## MOSS POLYGALA.

*Polygala cruciata.* Milkwort Family.

*Stems.*—Three to ten inches high; almost winged at the angles, with spreading opposite leaves and branches. *Leaves.*—Linear; nearly all whorled in fours. *Flowers.*—Greenish or purplish-pink; growing in short, thick spikes which terminate the branches.

There is something very moss-like in the appearance of this little plant which blossoms in late summer. It is found near moist places and salt marshes along the coast, being very common in parts of New England.

## COMMON MILKWEED.

*Asclepias Cornuti.* Milkweed Family.

*Stem.*—Tall; stout; downy; with a milky juice. *Leaves.*—Generally opposite or whorled; the upper sometimes scattered; large; oblong; pale; minutely downy underneath. *Flowers.*—Dull purplish-pink; clustered at the summit and along the sides of the stem. (These flowers are too difficult to be successfully analyzed by the non-botanist.) *Calyx.*—Five-parted; the divisions small and reflexed. *Corolla.*—Deeply five-parted; the divisions reflexed; above them a crown of five hooded nectaries, each containing an incurved horn. *Stamens.*—Five; inserted on the base of the corolla; united with each other and enclosing the pistils. *Pistils.*—Properly two; enclosed by the stamens, surmounted by a large five-angled disk. *Fruit.*—Two pods, one of which is large and full of silky-tufted seeds, the other often stunted.

This is probably the commonest representative of this striking and beautiful native family. The tall, stout stems, large, pale leaves, dull pink clustered flowers which appear in July, and later the puffy pods filled with the silky-tufted seeds beloved of imaginative children, are familiar to nearly everyone who spends a portion of the year in the country. The young sprouts are said to make an excellent pot-herb; the silky hairs of the seed-pods have been used for the stuffing of pillows and mattresses, and can be mixed with flax or wool and woven to advantage; while paper has been manufactured from the stout stalks.

The four-leaved milkweed, *A. quadrifolia*, is the most delicate member of the family, with fragrant rose-tinged flowers which appear on the dry wooded hill-sides quite early in June, and slender stems which are usually leafless below, and with one or two whorls and one or two pairs of oval, taper-pointed leaves above.





COMMON MILKWEED.—*Asclepias Cornuti*.