

## Cissus

About 350, see text

*Cissus* is a genus of approximately 350 species of lianas (woody vines) in the grape family (Vitaceae). They have a cosmopolitan distribution, though the majority are to be found in the tropics.

*Cissus quadrangularis* has been evaluated for potential medical uses. As a source of carotenoids, triterpenoids and ascorbic acid the extracts may have potential for medical effects, including "gastroprotective activity"[2] and benefits in terms of "lipid metabolism and oxidative stress".[3] *Cissus quinquangularis* was used by the Maasai people of Kenya to relieve some of the symptoms of malaria.[4]

*Cissus antarctica*, *Cissus alata* and *Cissus incisa* are cultivated as garden plants, depending on area of the world. Succulent members of the genus such as *Cissus quadrangularis* are also found in the nursery trade but tend to be frost tender and are thus not widely cultivated.[5]

*Cissus* species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including *Hypercompe eridanus* and *Hypercompe icasia*. They are also consumed by chimpanzees.[6]

The generic name is derived from the Greek word κισσος (*kissos*), meaning "ivy".[7] In the 1980s the genus was split according to some details of the flower. The large caudiciform species were moved to the new genus *Cyphostemma*.

The genus name was established by Carl Linnaeus who used species epithets that are adjectives with feminine grammatical gender in Latin (e.g., *C. trifoliata* L.). This matches the pattern that names of trees ending in -us in Latin have feminine gender, although other plant names ending in -us are usually masculine.[8]

Plants of the World Online currently includes:[9]

*Cissus woodrowii* in Keesara, Rangareddy district, Andhra Pradesh, India

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*Cissus repanda* in Keesara

*Cissus hypoglauca* growing over a creek at Murramarang National Park, Australia

