

Lonicera maackii (Caprifoliaceae) Adventive in Ontario¹

Abstract: *Lonicera maackii* (Rupr.) Maxim., a species native to Asia, has become established as a wild plant at several localities near Hamilton, Ontario.

Lonicera maackii (Rupr.) Maxim., the Amur Honeysuckle (Figure 1), is native to northeastern



FIGURE 1. *Lonicera maackii*.

Asia, and is frequently cultivated as an ornamental in North America. This species has evidently only rarely spread from cultivation on this continent. Braun reported in 1961 that *L. maackii* was "becoming abundant in pastures and woodlands" in Hamilton County, Ohio (Cincinnati region), but was not known as a wild plant elsewhere in the state. In 1971, J. W. Thieret discovered *L. maackii* as an apparent escape from cultivation on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, Ottawa County, Ohio (specimen in herb. F. T. Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio). *L. maackii* has also been reported to occur as a "waif" in Chesterfield County, Virginia (Uttal and Mitchell, 1972).

Neither Boivin's (1966) *Énumération des Plantes du Canada* nor Rousseau's (1971) *Classification de la flore synanthropique du Québec et de l'Ontario* contains any record of *L. maackii* as a wild plant in Canada. In the vicinity of Hamilton, Ontario, however, obviously spontaneous plants of this species occur in several localities. Herbarium records date back to 1955, the earlier

collections having been misidentified as *L. xylosteum* L. In Ontario, as in Ohio, *L. maackii* is found in both open and wooded habitats.

As indicated in Figure 2, *L. maackii* has been collected at several localities in the Royal Botanical Gardens' natural areas above the north and east shores of Coote's Paradise marsh, Wentworth County (voucher specimens: *Tamsalu* 5275 through 5280, HAM; *Pringle* 1334, HAM, MICH, NY, OS, RSA; 1335, HAM; 1337, HAM; and 1339, DAO, HAM). *L. maackii* has also been found along Valley Inn Road, on the opposite slope of the sandbar dividing Coote's Paradise from Hamilton Harbour (*Pringle* 1338, DAO, HAM, MICH, OAC) and near Patterson Road, ca. 2.6 km north of the Coote's Paradise population (*Pringle* 1117, HAM, LKHD; *Pringle* 1336, DAO, HAM). Herbarium designations follow Lanjouw and Stafleu (1964), with the addition of LKHD for the herbarium of Lakehead University.

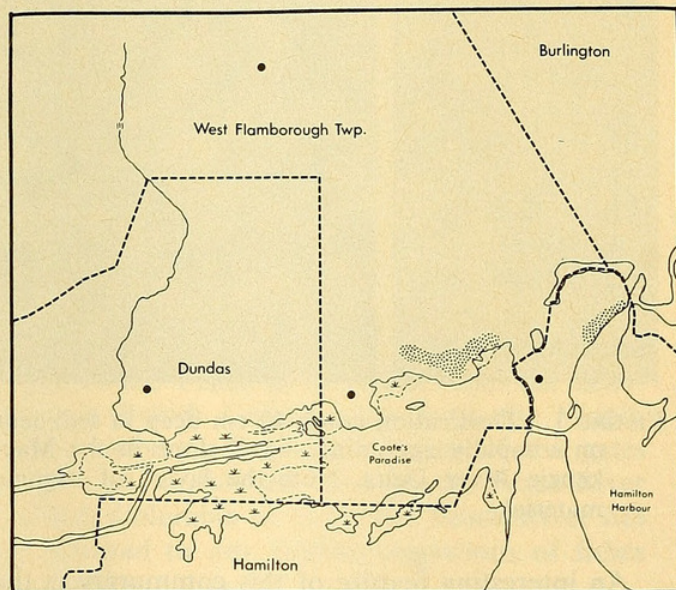


FIGURE 2. Distribution of *Lonicera maackii* in the Hamilton, Ontario, region. Stippled areas: numerous plants; dots: isolated plants or small colonies.

Lonicera maackii was probably originally introduced into the Hamilton area as a cultivated ornamental. Some of the localities at which this species now occurs may be near the sites of early plantings. With regard to the presence of *L. maackii* on the properties of the Royal Botanical Gardens, however, records indicate that this

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species was first cultivated at the Gardens in 1954, and that the only planting of this species outside the nursery was the placement of two plants in the *Rhododendron* collection in 1966. Since herbarium records indicate that a number of evidently spontaneous colonies were established by 1955, the occurrence of *L. maackii* in the Gardens' natural areas obviously antedates its being planted by the Gardens. The present abundance of plants in the Hamilton area, and some occurrences of colonies or individuals in sites relatively remote from cultivated areas, wildlife-management plantings, or other locations at which it might have been deliberately introduced, clearly indicate that *L. maackii* is becoming established as a component of the spontaneous flora. Since, like the widely and abundantly naturalized *L. tatarica* L., *L. maackii* is very hardy (Sherk and Buckley, 1968), successful in diverse habitats, and evidently adapted to dissemination by birds, additional reports of *L. maackii* as a naturalized species in Canada may be expected.

Among the native and naturalized shrubby species of *Lonicera* in eastern Canada which have paired flowers on axillary peduncles, *L. maackii* can readily be distinguished by its combination of hollow branches with brown pith; long-

acuminate leaf blades mostly 5-9 cm long; and peduncles generally less than 6 mm long.

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A Barnacle Goose in New Brunswick

On May 10, 1972 at a point along the St. John River and the Trans-Canada Highway 2.9 miles downstream from McGowan's Corner, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, a Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis*, was observed and identified at 6.45 p.m. Atlantic Daylight Saving Time. The bird was among a group of 26 Canada Geese, *B. canadensis*, resting on the water 100 to 125 feet from the observers; this distance was later checked on the scale of a telephoto lens. The birds made no attempt to move away and were observed for two periods of over 15 minutes each by the authors who are experienced observers. Peterson (1947: A Field Guide to the Birds. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston) was used at the time of observation to confirm the identification of the Barnacle Goose.

The geese were seen in a location that was

heavily flooded. The spring freshets covered grazing areas which the migrating geese might otherwise have used. Thus the geese were within easy viewing distance from the highway. By early morning the following day the birds had moved away and the Barnacle Goose was not seen again. There is no other record of the occurrence of a Barnacle Goose in New Brunswick.

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