



BEAN FAMILY

FABACEAE.

Groundnut Wild Bean.

Apios americana.

Found on moist banks, among tangles of low bushes and sedges, in August.

This is a twining vine, leafy, rather slender, and slightly rough to the touch. In color, green, sometimes tinged with a dull red.



The leaf is compound, usually of 5 or 7 leaflets; these are oval, largest at the base, and tapering to the tip; the margin is entire, the fibre strong, and the surface slightly rough; color, a strong, full green. The leaves are alternate at intervals, springing from a strong joint.

The upper petal of the flower is broad, and hood like, the middle folded petal is like a beak beneath it, the side petals narrow and hanging like ribbons to tie the hood. Its color is brown-pink, the hood and beak darkest on the inside. The flowers are clustered together in a dense rounded head, set on a short stem that springs from a leaf-joint.

The front view of this flower carries out the fantastic suggestion of the hood shaped petal, for the beak looks like a strongly hooked nose far under its shadow. It is odorless.

Top photo: George H. Bruso, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Lower photo: ©David Smith, <http://delawarewildflowers.org>



WILD BEAN: *Apios americana*

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895
Nomenclature and Families updated.