

HEATH FAMILY

ERICACEAE.

Indian Pipe. Corpse Plant.

Monotropa uniflora.

Found in dark, damp woods, from June to August.

The thick, round, flower-stem varies from 3 to 8 inches in height, and is fleshy, smooth, and clammy. Its color is white, or faintly flesh-tinted.

The small, scaly bracts, which serve for leaves, are white.



The large bell-shaped flower is formed of 5 long, narrow, fleshy white parts, whose tips flare a little. The 10 stamens are dull tawny. The flowers are nodding, usually solitary, though sometimes 2 or even 3 are grouped on one stem.

A parasitic growth (*editor's note: Indian Pipes are now known to be mycoheterotrophs. These are plants that get all or part of their nutrients from feeding upon fungi rather than from photosynthesis.*) on roots and decaying vegetable matter, speedily turning black when gathered, the Indian Pipe displays none of the pleasing attributes commonly associated with healthful sun-loving vegetation. It is, by nature, designed for the semi-twilight of the dark forest, and illy bears transportation into the brighter light of the open; even in the shadows of the woods, it is often found covered by dead leaves.

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INDIAN PIPE: *Monotropa uniflora*.

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