

Black jetbead

Rhodotypos scandens

Description

Although jetbead is a member of Rosaceae, its leaves are opposite, rather than alternate.

Habit

Open, arching shrub ranging in height from 1-2 m (3-6 ft) in height and 1.2-2.7 m (4-9 ft) in width.

Leaves

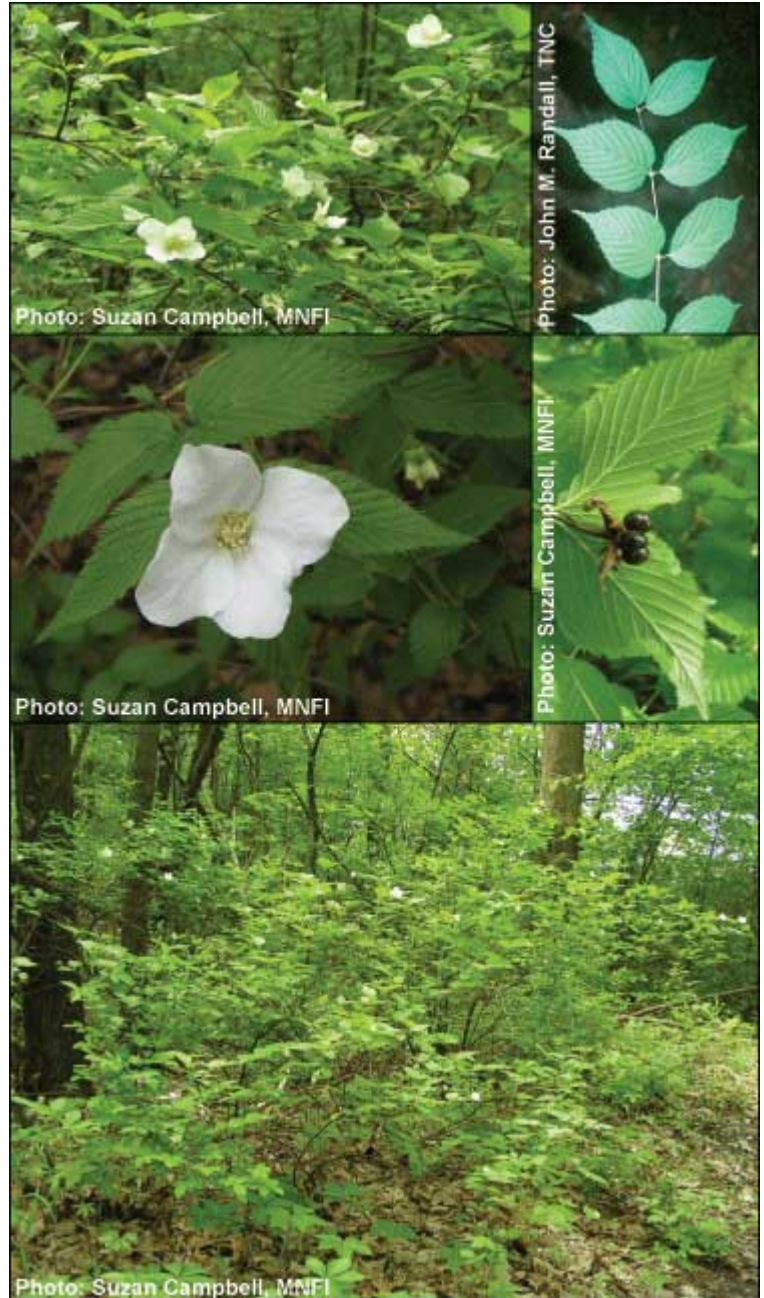
Simple, opposite, bright green in color, 5-10 cm (2.25-4 in) long, doubly toothed margins, rough texture on the leaf surface, resemble raspberry leaflets, emerge early in spring, retained until late fall.

Stems

Arching, loosely branched.

Flowers

White in color, four-petaled, occurring singly at



branch tips, occasional flowers later in season;

blooms in late April or early May.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are black, hard and ovoid, 1 cm (0.3 in) long; clustered at branch tips, hanging below leaves; persist over winter.

Habitat

Native to China and Japan; escaped ornamental capable of invading forests; prefers sunny, dry, well-drained sites but thrives in shade and also in harsh urban conditions.

Reproduction

By seed, possibly bird-dispersed.

Similar

Resembles other opposite leaved shrubs slightly including honeysuckle and privet but form more open and arching, leaves toothed and fruits clustered at stem tips, rather than along branches.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor woodland edges and along paths; jetbead is most visible while its white flowers with four petals are blooming in spring. Pull seedlings and hand dig small plants; for large infestations, cut shrubs to the ground in fall or winter; little information is available on this species but applying herbicide to cut stems is likely to enhance control efforts. As this species has a limited distribution in Michigan, it is important to document new occurrences. Please obtain flowering or fruiting specimens and submit to: Anton Reznicek, Curator (Vascular Plants), University of Michigan Herbarium, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2287.

Credits

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