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*Diervilla sessilifolia*

[Synonyms : *Diervilla canadensis*, *Diervilla lonicera*, *Diervilla trifida*, *Weigela sessilifolia*]  
**SOUTHERN BUSH HONEYSUCKLE** is a deciduous shrub. Native to south-eastern North America it has small, pale yellow flowers.

It is also known as Bush honeysuckle, Gravel weed, *Kantgetris* (Swedish), Life of man, Northern bush honeysuckle, and *Rödblommigt getris* (Swedish).

*Sessilifolia* is derived from Latin *sessilis* (seated, stalkless) and *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘with stalkless leaves’.

The shrub was a source of medicine for several North American Indian tribes. The Iroquois and Menominee tribes used it for treating some blood disorders, and they and some of the Chippewa also prescribed it in remedies for urinary problems. In addition the Menominee, Iroquois and Potawatomi tribes used bush honeysuckle in treatments for some venereal diseases. It was used by the Chippewa in remedies for constipation and stomach pain, and they and some of the Cree Indians turned to it for treating various eye disorders. One unusual application is recorded for the Potawatomi Indians who it seems included a twig infusion as an ingredient in a medicine taken to counter vertigo. A more banal use was found for the shrub by some of the Algonkin, and the Potawatomi and Menominee tribes as they took it as a remedy for fluid retention.

Medicinally, a gargle made from the leaves has been used by herbalists for easing sore throats.