

Lonicera ciliosa

[Synonyms : *Caprifolium ciliosum*, *Lonicera occidentalis*]

VINE HONEYSUCKLE is a twining, trailing or climbing, deciduous or evergreen shrub.

Native to western North America it has small, orange-yellow flowers that are often purple-tinted outside.

It is also known as *Bewimperte Heckenkirsche* (German), Climbing honeysuckle, Honeysuckle, Orange honeysuckle, Orange trumpet honeysuckle, and Western trumpet honeysuckle.

The flowers are pollinated by swallowtails, humming birds and bees.

Ciliosa is derived from Latin *cilium* (eyelash, eyelid) meaning ‘edged with hairs or fringed with fine hairs’.

Children of the North American Saanich, Thompson, Okanagan-Colville, and Nitinaht tribes are all known to have sucked the sweet nectar from the flowers.

The fruit are enjoyed by bears (particularly the grizzlies), birds such as some species of grouse, and chipmunks.

In the past Flathead North American Indians boiled the plant for a shampoo and the Chehalis Indians washed their hair in a leaf infusion to make it grow.

Authorities seem to have taken special note of the use to which the Thompson Indians put the vines. Not only did the stem fibre provide twine sewing thread but, often combined with willow (*Salix*) for added strength, the vines were used to make suspension bridges over deep canyons and ravines, as well as to make their underground pit houses and the ladders dropped to them.

The vine was also a source of medicine for quite a few North American Indian tribes, including the Cowichan. The Swinomish Indians prescribed it for treating colds and sore throats, and as did the Thompson and Squaxin tribes they also used it for some female problems. It was a tonic for both the Thompson and Skagit tribes, and the Thompson Indians turned to it as a remedy for insomnia and epilepsy. Then the Klallam tribe applied it to bruises, the Lummi used it in treatments for tuberculosis and the Chehalis valued it as a contraceptive.

Vine honeysuckle was introduced to Britain in the 19th Century by the famous Scottish botanist, David Douglas (1798-1834) from his first trip to the North American north-west.