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Rubus villosus

[Synonyms : *Rubus argutus*, *Rubus flagellaris*, *Rubus procumbens*]

AMERICAN BLACKBERRY is a prickly perennial shrub. Native to North America it has white flowers.

It is also known as Blackberry, Bramble, Bramble high-bush blackberry, *Brombeere* (German), Canadian blackberry, Cloudberry, Common blackberry, Dewberry, Fingerberry, Goutberry, High blackberry, High bush blackberry, Low running blackberry, Northern blackberry, Northern dewberry, One-flower dewberry, Tall blackberry, and Thimbleberry.

Villosus is derived from Latin *villosus* (shaggy, hairy) meaning ‘softly hairy or shaggy haired’. The American blackberry is a distinct species from the European blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

In North America some of the Indian tribes added American blackberries to stews.

Medicinally, herbalists have used the roots to treat cholera in children, dysentery, diarrhoea and some venereal diseases, and as an antidote for snake bites. Today the root, root bark and leaves are used primarily to treat diarrhoea.