

## FAMILY ASCLEPIADACEAE

Herbs, shrubs, vines, or rarely small trees

Sometimes fleshy

**Stems and leaves usually with milky latex**

Leaves opposite or whorled, sometimes alternate

Leaves simple

Flowers in cymes or often in umbels

Flowers bisexual

Flowers actinomorphic

Calyx of 5 separate to slightly united sepals; reflexed

Corolla of 5 united petals

**Often present is a corona composed of 5 erect, often brightly colored hoods**

Associated with each hood may be a beak-like structure pointing toward the center of the flower

Within the corona is an androecium of 5 stamens, which are highly modified and adherent in a ring to the surface of the stigmatic area of the gynoecium

Gynoecium of 2 carpels, free through much of their length

Ovary superior

Fruit a pair of follicles

Seeds typically with very silky hairs

Some Common Names: Milkweed

Some Important Plants: Some Ornamentals

Member of Subclass Asteridae