

## climbing milkweed *Matelea decipiens*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: endangered, native

### FEATURES

Climbing milkweed, also known as oldfield milkvine, grows up to 10 feet in length. Leaves are arranged in pairs, opposite each other on the stem. Seedpods are up to four inches in length. Flowers are positioned in the leaf axils and are maroon in color.

### BEHAVIORS

Climbing milkweed flowers May through June. It is found in Jackson, Saline and Williamson counties and is endangered in Illinois. This hairy, vining species grows in floodplain forests.

Aquatic Habitats: bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats: bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats: none

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