Gelsemiaceae  L. Struwe & V.A. Albert

Gelsemium Family

(Pteleocarpaceae)

The *Gelsemiaceae* is a small dicotyledonous angiosperm family consisting of three to five genera which contain a total about a dozen species; it is also known as the Jessamine Family; most members are evergreen woody twining vines or occasionally small shrubs from tropical, subtropical, or warm temperate regions of Africa, Asia, North America or South America; the foliage is opposite, predominantly evergreen, simple, has entire margins or nearly so, and lacks latex; most leaves are linear, lanceolate, or narrowly ovate with elongated acute to acuminate tips, but those of a few members are tiny and suborbicular; inflorescences contain a single flower or are in few-flowered cymes; sepals, petals, and stamen are in fives and the petals are fused into a trumpet-shaped corolla tube with flared lobes; the actinomorphic flowers have a superior ovary with two carpels and a branched stigma; stamens are fused near the corolla base; flowers are often showy with colors of yellow, white, or pink; fruit are ovoid or compressed capsules; the genus *Gelsemium* is native to our region and *G. sempervirens* is a common ornamental vine; this family has only recently become recognized with most genera formerly in the *Boraginaceae*, or more commonly the *Loganiaceae* to which it is closely related; molecular evidence also indicates a close relationship to the *Apocynaceae*.

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