

## Plant Indicator Species for Calcareous Ledge

The plants described below can often be used as field indicators for identifying this habitat when other physical and biological features of the habitat are present.

### **ebony spleenwort** (*Asplenium platyneuron*) (fern)

- frond narrow, typically 4 - 12 in long, with dark reddish-brown to blackish stem
- each pinna oblong, with small “thumb” at base



### **maidenhair spleenwort** (*Asplenium trichomanes*) (fern)

- frond narrow, up to 10 in long, with dark purplish-brown stem
- each pinna small and roundish-oblong



### **wild columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) (forb)

- leaves compound, each with three round-toothed leaflets
- flowers bright red, drooping, bell-like, each with five long straight or slightly curved spurs (April – July)



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### **bladdernut** (*Staphylea trifolia*) (shrub)

- leaves opposite, three-parted, toothed
- flowers bell-shaped, white, in (usually) drooping clusters (April)
- fruit three-lobed, thin-husked, inflated capsules, 1 - 2 in diameter (August – October)

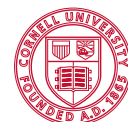


### **hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) (tree)

- leaves ovate, long-pointed, toothed, asymmetrical at base
- twigs with chambered pith, especially near leaf scars
- bark of mature trees with warty knobs and ridges



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### American prickly-ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*) (shrub)

- leaves compound, resembling those of true ashes
- leaves with lemony odor when crushed
- stem, branches, twigs, and sometimes leaf stalks spiny; spines paired on twigs

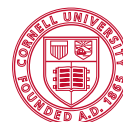


### basswood (*Tilia americana*) (tree)

- leaves broad, heart-shaped, toothed, asymmetrical at base
- leaf buds smooth, red, shiny
- small round nutlets clustered on stems beneath narrow leaf-like bracts (August – October)



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