

83. *CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICA* L. (OLEACEAE) — Fringe Tree, Old Man's Beard

Ornamental shrub, with several folk medicinal applications. Reported to be alterative, aperient, cholagogue, diuretic, narcotic, and tonic, fringe tree is a folk remedy for bilious fever, cancer, cirrhosis, diarrhea, fever, hepatitis, icterus, inflammations, malaria, skin ailments, sore, sorethroat, stomatitis, typhoid, and wounds.^{4,32} Used in homeopathy for hepatitis, hepatitis, hepatogenic headache, and icterus.³³

The plant contains phillyrin (chionanthine, phyllyroside, forsythin); the aglucone phillygenin $C_{21}H_{24}O_6$. Said to contain a glucoside and saponin.²

Toxicity — Regarded as slightly narcotic.² Overdoses cause severe frontal headache, sore eyes, nausea, flatulence, severe vomiting, black stools, slow pulse, cold sweats, and weakness.⁵⁶