CROWFOOT FAMILY.
RANUNCULACEÆ

Goldthread.

Coptis trifolia.

Found during May in moist woods.

The root sends up flowers and leaves on stems from 3 to 5 inches high.

The leaf is compound with 3 small leaflets that are wedge-shaped, with notched margins, tough texture, and smooth, shining surface; it is set on a long slender stem. Evergreen, and of a dark green color.

The flower is small; of 5 or 7 narrow, tapering calyx-parts that are a fine silvery-white color. The true petals are inconspicuous and easily confused with the numerous stamens and pistils. The flower stem is long and slender.

This has a shining flower and leaf. The bright yellow threadlike roots give it its common name.

Top photo: Thomas L Muller, Wildflower Center Digital Library, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Center photo: k Barton

Bottom photo: © Francis R. Underwood 2016
GOLDTHREAD: Coptis trifolia.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895. Nomenclature and Families updated.