

Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas

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Plant Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Caterpillar Food Plant For These Butterflies
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Acanthaceae - Acanthus Family

<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	Flame acanthus	Crimson Patch
<i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>	False Mint	Texan Crescent
<i>Dyschoriste linearis</i>	Snake herb, Narrowleaf	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia carolinensis</i>	Small Flower Ruellia	Texan Crescent
<i>Ruellia drummondiana</i>	Drummond's Wild petunia	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia nudiflora</i>	Common Wild petunia	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia occidentalis</i>	Western Ruellia	Common Buckeye, White Peacock
<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>	Hairy Tube-tongue	Elada Checkerspot, Vesta Crescent, Texan Crescent

Aceraceae - Maple Family

<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder	Banded Hairstreak, Mourning Cloak
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Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family

<i>Rhus virens</i>	Evergreen sumac	Dusky-blue Groundstreak
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison ivy	Dusky-blue Groundstreak

Apiaceae - Parsley Family

<i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Wild carrot	Black Swallowtail
<i>Ciclospermum</i>	Celery	Black Swallowtail
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Black Swallowtail
<i>Polytaenia</i>	Parsley	Black Swallowtail
<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Dill	Black Swallowtail

Aquifoliaceae - Holly Family

<i>Ilex</i>	Yaupon	Dusky-blue Groundstreak
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Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family

<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>	Blunt-Leaf milkweed	Queen
<i>Asclepias asperula</i>	Antelope horns	Queen
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Veintiunilla	Monarch, Queen
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias texana</i>	Texas milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed	Monarch, Gray Hairstreak
<i>Asclepias viridis</i>	Green milkweed	Monarch

<i>Cynanchum barbigerum</i>	Cynanchum	Variegated Fritillary
<i>Cynanchum unifarum</i>	Talayote	Queen, Soldier
<i>Matelea edwardsensis</i>	Plateau milkvine	Queen
<i>Sarcostemma crispum</i>	Wavy-leaf milkweed vine	Queen, Soldier, Monarch
<i>Sarcostemma cynanchoides</i>	Climbing milkweed	Soldier

Asteraceae - Sunflower Family

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Painted Lady
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Short ragweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Giant ragweed	Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	White sage	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Aster drummondii</i>	Texas aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	White aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Aster praealtus</i>	Tall aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Seepwillow	Fatal Metalmark, Elada Checkerspot
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	Tickseed sunflower	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk-thistle	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Centaurea americana</i>	Basket flower	Painted Lady
<i>Cirsium ochrocentrum</i>	Yellow-spine thistle	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Horseweed	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Dyssodia tagetoides</i>	Dogweed	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Eup. betonicifolium</i>	Betony-Leaf Eupatorium	Rounded Metalmark
<i>Eupatorium greggii</i>	Palm-leaf Eupatorium	Rawson's Metalmark
<i>Eupatorium havanensis</i>	Shrubby boneset	Rawson's Metalmark, Bordered Patch
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late Eupatorium	Rounded Metalmark
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian blanket	Bordered Patch
<i>Gnaphalium</i>	Cudweed	American Lady
<i>Helenium amarum</i>	Yellow bitterweed	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot, Silvery Checkerspot, Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximillian sunflower	Bordered Patch
<i>Heliantus petiolaris</i>	Plains sunflower	Gorgon Crescent
<i>Heliantus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke	Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Heterotheca latifolia</i>	Camphor weed	Bordered Patch
<i>Palafoxia callosa</i>	palafoxia	Bordered Patch, Dainty Sulphur
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	False ragweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Brown-eyed susan	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Senecio ampullaceus</i>	Texas groundsel	American Lady
<i>Silphium</i>	Rosinweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Silybum marianus</i>	Milk thistle	American Lady
<i>Simsia calva</i>	Bush sunflower	Bordered Patch
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Tall goldenrod	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Cowpen daisy	Bordered Patch
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Frostweed	Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	Western ironweed	Painted Lady

<i>Viguiera dentata</i>	Goldeneye	Bordered Patch
<i>Wedelia hispida</i>	Zexmenia	Bordered Patch
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	Bordered Patch
Aristolochiaceae - Pipevine Family		
<i>Aristolochia</i>	Dutchman's pipe	Pipevine Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail
<i>Aristolochia erecta</i>	Swan flower	Pipevine Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail
Bignoniaceae - Catalpa Family		
<i>Catalpa</i>	Common catalpa	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Boraginaceae - Borage Family		
<i>Myosotis</i>	Scorpion-grass	Painted Lady
Brassicaceae - Mustard Family		
<i>Arabis canadensis</i>	Sicklepod	Falcate Orangetip
<i>Arabis petiolaris</i>	Brazos Rockcross	Olympia Marble
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Tansy mustard	Olympia Marble, Cabbage White, Checkered White
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Peppergrass	Falcate Orangetip, Whites
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Watercress	Great Southern White
<i>Streptanthus bracteatus</i>	Bracted twist-flower	Falcate Orangetip
Cannaceae - Canna Family		
<i>Canna</i> (l)	Canna	Brazilian Skipper
Capparidaceae - Caper Family		
<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>	Clammy weed	Cabbage White, Checkered White, Great Southern White
Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family		
	Pigweed	Skippers, Western Pigmy Blue, Painted Lady
Convolvulaceae - Morning Glory Family		
<i>Ipomoea trichocarpa</i>	Purple bindweed	Variiegated Fritillary
Cornaceae - Dogwood Family		
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Rough-leaf dogwood	Spring Azure
Crassularaceae - Stone Crop Family		
<i>Sedum nuttallianum</i>	Yellow stonecrop	Gray Hairstreak, Common Buckeye, Variiegated Fritillary
Cupressaceae - Cypress Family		
<i>Juniperus ashei</i>	Ashe Juniper	Olive Hairstreak
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red Cedar	Olive Hairstreak

Ebenaceae - Ebony Family

Diospyros texana Black persimmon Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Bernardia Oreja de raton Lacey's Hairstreak
Croton Encinilla croton Gray Hairstreak, Goatweed Leafwing, Tropical Leafwing
Dalechampia Ortiga Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor
Drypetes Mula Florida White
Tragia Noseburn Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor
Tragia volubilis Pringa-moza Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor

Fabaceae - Legume Family

Acacia hirta Fern acacia Outis Skipper, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue
Acacia roemeriana Catclaw acacia Reakirt's Blue, Mexican Yellow
Amorpha fruticosa Lead plant Silver-spotted Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Southern Dogface
Astragalus lotiflorus Loco weed Gray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Tailed Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange Sulphur
Baptisia australis Wild Blue indigo Wild indigo Duskywing, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur
Bauhinia congesta Anacacho orchid-tree Long-tailed Skipper
Cercis canadensis Redbud Henry's Elfin
Desmodium tortuosum Tickclover Long-tailed Skipper, Dorantes Longtail, Cassius & Tailed Blue, Variegated Frit., Tailed Orange
Eysenhardtia texana Kidneywood Southern Dogface
Indigofera lindheimeriana Lindheimer scarlet pea False Duskywing, Gray Hairstreak, Cassius Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Southern Dogface
Lupinus texensis Texas Bluebonnet Northern Cloudywing, Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, Painted & American Lady, Orange Sulphur
Melilotus albus White sweet clover Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur
Phaseolus polystachios Bean Silver-spotted Skipper, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur
Pithecellobium flexicaule Ebony Cassius Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange-barred Sulphur, Orange Sulphur
Prosopis glandulosa Honey mesquite Marine Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue
Robinia pseudo-acacia Black locust Zarucco Duskywing, Mexican Yellow
Schrankia Sensitive briar Little Yellow, Mimosa yellow
Senna fasciculata Partridge pea Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur, Clouded Sulphur
Senna lindheimeri Lindheimer senna Orange Sulphur, Yellow Angled-Sulphur, Mexican Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur
Senna roemeriana Two-leaved senna Tailed Orange, Orange Sulphur, Statira Sulphur
Sesbania drummondii Rattlebush Funereal Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Orange Sulphur
Sophora secundiflora Texas mountain laurel Henry's Elfin (Solatus ssp.)
Tephrosia lindheimeri Lindheimer hoary pea White-striped Longtail
Trifolium repens White clover Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur, Southern Dogface
Vicia Winter vetch Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur

Fagaceae - Oak Family

Quercus buckleyi Texas red oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, Admirals
Quercus fusiformis Texas live oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, California Sister
Quercus marilandica Blackjack oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, Admirals
Quercus sinuata Durand oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, California Sister

Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family

<i>Phacelia congesta</i>	Blue-curls	Painted Lady
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Juglandaceae - Walnut Family

<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	Hairstreaks
<i>Juglans spp.</i>	Walnuts	Hairstreaks

Lamiaceae - Mint Family

<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Tropical sage	Painted Lady
<i>Stachys crenata</i>	Shade betony	Painted Lady

Lauraceae - Laurel Family

<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	Redbay	Palamedes, Spicebush, Eastern Tiger, and Giant Swallowtail
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	Palamedes, Spicebush and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Liliaceae - Lilly Family

<i>Yucca constricta</i>	Buckley Yucca	Kendalls' Yucca Giant-Skipper
<i>Yucca rupicola</i>	Twist-leaf yucca	Kendalls' Yucca Giant-Skipper

Linaceae - Flax Family

<i>Linum</i>	Flax	Variegated Fritillary
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Loganiaceae - Logania Family

<i>Spigelia texana</i>	Texas Pinkroot	Soldier
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Malpighiaceae - Malpighia Family

<i>Malpighia glabra</i>	Barbados cherry	Cassius Blue
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Malvaceae - Mallow Family

<i>Abutilon incanum</i>	Indian mallow	Texas Powdered-Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Winecup	Gray Hairstreak
<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	Cotton	Painted Lady
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Common mallow	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Malvella leprosa</i>	Dollar weed	Gray Hairstreak, Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak
<i>Sida lindheimeri</i>	Lindheimer's sida	Checkered-Skipper, Laviana White-Skipper
<i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i>	Globe mallow	Common Streaky-Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady
<i>Wissadula holosericea</i>	Velvet-leaf mallow	Texas Powdered-Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper

Moraceae - Mulberry Family

<i>Ficus</i>	Figs	Daggerwings
<i>Morus</i>	Mulberries	Daggerwings

Nyctaginaceae - Four-O'Clock Family

<i>Boerhaavia coccinea</i>	Scarlet spiderling	Variegated Fritillary
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Oleaceae - Olive Family

<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	Mourning Cloak
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Red ash	Banded Hairstreak, E. Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail

Oxalidaceae - Wood Sorrel Family

<i>Oxalis dillenii</i>	Yellow wood sorrel	Cyna Blue
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Passifloraceae - Passionvine Family

<i>Passiflora affinis</i>	Bracted Passionflower	Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Corona de Cristo	Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Maypop	Variegated Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Yellow passionflower	Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Passionflower	Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora tenuiloba</i>	Slender-lobe passionflwr	Gulf Fritillary

Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family

<i>Plantain lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	Common Buckeye, Painted Lady, Variegated Fritillary
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Plumbaginaceae - Leadwort Family

<i>Plumbago scandens</i>	Hierba de alacran	Cassius Blue, Marine Blue
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Poaceae - Grass Family

<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
<i>Digitaria</i>	Northern crabgrass	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	St Augustine grass (tall)	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
<i>Zea mays</i>	Maize	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats grama	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs
	Bamboo	Grass-Skippers, Satyrs

Polygonaceae - Knotweed Family

<i>Eriogonum annuum</i>	Wild buckwheat	Hairstreaks
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Portulacaceae - Purslane Family

<i>Portulaca umbraticola</i>	Purslane	Variegated Fritillary
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Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

<i>Clematis drummondii</i>	Old man's beard	Fatal Metalmark
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Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family

<i>Ceanothus herbaceus</i>	Redroot	Spring Azure
<i>Karwinskia humboltiana</i>	Coyotillo	Two-barred Flasher
<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Carolina buckthorn	Gray Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Painted Lady

Rosaceae - Rose Family

<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorne	Gray Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak, E. Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple
<i>Prunus serotina var. eximia</i>	Escarpment Black cherry	Banded Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Eastern & Two-tailed Tiger Swt, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple

Rutaceae - Citrus Family

<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer ash	E. Tiger, Two-tailed Tiger, Giant and Thoas Swallowtails
<i>Thamnosma texana</i>	Dutchman's breeches	Black Swallowtail,
<i>Zanthoxylum hirsutum</i>	Prickly ash	Eastern Tiger, Two-tailed Tiger and Giant Swallowtails
<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	Colima	Sickle-winged Skipper, Giant Swallowtail, Thoas Swallowtail

Salicaceae - Willow Family

<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral

Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family

<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Soapberry	Soapberry Hairstreak
<i>Ungradia speciosa</i>	Mexican Buckeye	Henry's Elfin (solatus ssp.)

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

<i>Agalinis edwardsiana</i>	Plateau agalinis	Common Buckeye
<i>Agalinis heterophylla</i>	Prairie agalinis	Tropical Buckeye
<i>Bacopa</i>	Water hyssop	White Peacock
<i>Castilleja indivisa</i>	Texas paintbrush	Common Buckeye
<i>Castilleja purpurea</i>	Prairie paintbrush	Common Buckeye
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Cenizo	Theona Checkerspot
<i>Linaria texana</i>	Texas toadflax	Common Buckeye
<i>Lindernia dubia</i>	False pimpernel	White Peacock
<i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>	snapdragon vine	Common Buckeye
<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	Foxglove	Common Buckeye
<i>Stemodia tomentosa</i>	Stemodia	Tropical Buckeye

Simaroubaceae - Quassia Family

<i>Castela texana</i>	Allthorn	Florida White
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Styracaceae - Storax Family

<i>Styrax platanifolia</i>	Sycamore-leaf snowbell	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
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Tiliaceae - Linden Family

<i>Tilia caroliniana</i>	Carolina Basswood	White-M Hairstreak, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple
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Turneraceae -Yellow Alder Family

<i>Turnera diffusa</i>	Hierba del venado	Variagated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary
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Ulmaceae - Elm Family

<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	American Snout, Emperors, Question Mark
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<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Granjeno	American Snout, Empress Leila
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

<i>Urtica</i>	Nettles	Red Admiral, Painted Lady, American Lady, Question Mark, Eastern Comma
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Verbenaceae - Verbena Family

<i>Lantana horrida</i>	Texas lantana	Painted Lady
<i>Lippia alba</i>	Bushy lippia	White Peacock,
<i>Phyla incisa</i>	Common frogfruit	Phaon Crescent
<i>Phyla lanceolata</i>	northern frog-fruit	Phaon Crescent
<i>Verbena halei</i>	Texas vervain	Common Buckeye

Violaceae - Violet Family

<i>Hybanthus verticillatus</i>	Green violet	Variegated Fritillary
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Viscaceae - Mistletoe

<i>Phoradendron</i>	Mistletoe	Great Purple Hairstreak
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Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop Family

<i>Guaiacum angustifolium</i>	Guayacan	Gray Hairstreak, Lyaside Sulphur
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This list of plants and their associated butterflies was modified from:

Central Texas Butterfly Gardening

Plants useful as food for butterfly larvae in Central Texas
<http://www.tmm.utexas.edu/tnhc/invertzoology/butterfly/catfood.html>

For information on the above plants, see the following two publications:

Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country

Enquist, M. 1987
Lone Star Botanical, Austin. 275 pp.

Native & Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin & the Hill Country

Brother Daniel Lynch, C.S.C. 1981.
Acorn Press, Austin. 180 pp.

For information on the above butterflies see the following two publications:

Butterflies Through Binoculars, The West

Jeffrey Glassberg, 2001.
Oxford University Press, Oxford. 384 pp.

Focus Guide to Butterflies of North America

Jim P. Brock & Kenn Kaufman. 2003.
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 384 pp.

Please send questions or comments about this list to:

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