

CANELLACEAE

by

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Glabrous trees or rarely shrubs, with aromatic bark. Leaves alternate, simple, entire, pinnately veined, with pellucid dots. Stipules wanting. Inflorescence consisting of axillary or terminal cymes or racemes. Flowers hermaphrodite, actinomorphic. Sepals 3–5, imbricate. Petals 4–12, free or basically united, imbricate. Stamens 20 or less; filaments united into a tube; anthers 2-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence, extrorse. Ovary superior, 1-celled, 2–5 carpellate; style short and thick; stigma 2–6-lobed. Ovules horizontal or ascending, 2 to numerous on 2–5 parietal placentas. Fruit a berry. Seeds 2 to many, shining, hard and brittle. Embryo straight or slightly curved. Endosperm copious, oily and fleshy.

Ten species in 5 genera in tropical and subtropical America, Madagascar and tropical Africa.

Canella P. Brown, Hist. Jam. 275. 1756

Evergreen, glabrous tree or shrub; bark whitish-yellow, aromatic. Leaves coriaceous. Inflorescence consisting of terminal cymes; bracts and bracteoles deciduous. Flowers purple, red or violet. Sepals 3, coriaceous, persistent. Petals 5, free, the inner ones narrower than the outer ones, deciduous. Staminal tube carrying 10–20 anthers near the top. Ovary with 2–3 parietal placentas, each bearing 2–4 ovules. Berry globose. Seeds 4–6, obovoid or subreniform. Endosperm copious.

A monotypic genus in the West Indies, southern Florida and Colombia to Suriname.

Canella winterana (L.) Gaertn.

GAERTNER, Fruct. & Sem. 1: 373. 1788; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 282. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 589. 1924; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 5(3): 207, fig. 82. 1926; STEHLÉ et QUENTIN, Fl. Guadeloupe 2: 132. 1937; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 3: 321, fig. 144. 1953; — *Laurus winterana* LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 371. 1753; — *Winterana canella* LINNAEUS, Syst. ed. 10. 1045. 1759; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 415. 1910; — *Canella alba* MURRAY, Syst. Veg. 443. 1784;

GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 109. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 103. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 135. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 288. 1913; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 441. 1920.

High shrub or tree, up to 12 m tall, with white, aromatic bark. Leaves petiolate; petiole short, about 0.5 cm long; blade spatulate or oblanceolate, rounded or obtuse at the apex, narrowed at the base and passing into the petiole, 3—10 × 1.5—3 cm, shining above and dull beneath, the midvein very prominent beneath; the margins often thickened or recurved. Flowers in few- to several-flowered corymbs; pedicels about 1 cm long. Sepals roundish, 2—3 mm long, ciliolate. Petals obovate, obtuse, 5 mm long and 2—2.5 mm wide. Staminal tube 3—4 mm long; anthers linear, 2 mm long, yellow. Berry purplish-black, about 1 cm in diam. Seeds black, 5—6 mm long.

Southern Florida to Venezuela and Colombia; West Indies as far south as Barbados. At lower elevations in dry evergreen woodland and semi-evergreen seasonal forest.

Vernacular name: pepper cinnamon (Windward Group).

ST. MARTIN: Milldrum Hill, 300-400 m (Boldingh 3126, st. Sept.); Low Lands (Boldingh 3282, st. Sept.); near Simson Bay Lagoon (Boldingh 3038, st. Aug.); Simson Bay Lagoon near Cul Piquard (Boldingh 2740, fl. Aug.); Cole Bay (George s.n. sub Boldingh 2503; fl. & fr. Aug.; id. sub Boldingh 2505, st. Aug.); near Mullet Pond (Boldingh 2769, st. Aug.); Visvijver (Boldingh 2926, st. Aug.); Sentry Hill (Stoffers 4519, st. Aug.; 4521, st. Aug.); Point Simson Bay (Arnoldo 1281, fl. March); Tintamarre (Le Gallo 988, fl. Aug.).