

## TAMARICACEAE

by

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Shrubs, trees or rarely herbs. Leaves alternate, sessile, simple, often scale-like or needle-shaped. Stipules wanting. Flowers solitary or in spikes or racemes, actinomorphic, hermaphrodite. Sepals 4—5, free or united at base. Petals 4—5, free or nearly so, imbricate. Stamens 4 to many; filaments usually free, rarely somewhat united; anthers extrorse, versatile, with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior, 1-celled, with 3—5 parietal placentas; styles 3—5, free or sometimes stigmas sessile. Ovules numerous. Disk usually present. Fruit a 1-celled or incompletely 3—4-celled capsule. Seeds bearded, rarely winged. Endosperm scanty or wanting. Embryo straight.

About 100 species in 4 genera, in temperate and sub-tropical regions, often in saline habitats.

**Tamarix** Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 270. 1753

Shrubs or trees; branches very slender, terete; branchlets often falling with the leaves. Leaves small, scale-like, often sheathing. Inflorescence consisting of dense spikes, usually arranged in terminal panicles. Flowers small, short-pedicellate or sessile. Sepals 4—5. Petals 4—5. Stamens 4—5 or 8—10, free or united at base. Ovary surrounded at the base by a more or less deeply lobed disc; styles 3—5, clavate or short and thick. Fruit a 3—5-valved capsule. Seeds minute, with a tuft of hairs at the apex.

About 80 species, originating mainly from the eastern Mediterranean; naturalized in many parts of the world.

**Tamarix aphylla** (L.) Karst.

KARSTEN, Deutsche Fl. 641. 1883; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 131, fig. 199. 1954; — *Thuja aphylla* LINNAEUS, Amoen. 4: 295. 1788.

Tree, up to 10 m tall; branchlets articulate, about 0.5 mm in diam. Leaves minute, sheathing. Inflorescence consisting of 3—5 cm long dense spikes, arranged in terminal panicles. Flowers sessile, pink or white with pink stamens.

Bracts deltoid, about 1 mm long. Sepals 5, concave, broadly elliptic, slightly connate at the base, about 1.5 mm long and 1 mm wide. Petals 5, linear-oblong, rounded at the apex, 2.5 mm long and 1 mm wide. Stamens 5; filaments about 2.5 mm long, inserted on the disc. Ovary conic, 1.5 mm long; styles 3, thick, 0.5 mm long.

Originating from West Asia, introduced in tropical and subtropical America; cultivated and subsontaneous (?) in Aruba and Curaçao.

**Tamarix gallica L.**

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 270. 1753; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 287. 1913; BRITTON & MILLSPAUGH, Bahama Fl. 279. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 552. 1925; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 154. 1941; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 131, fig. 200. 1954.

Shrub or small tree; branches slender, erect or spreading. Leaves greyish- to blueish-green, scale-like, nearly deltoid, keeled, semi-amplexicaul, 1—1.5 mm long with scarios margins. Inflorescence consisting of 4 cm long spikes arranged in terminal panicles. Flowers white or pink, globose in bud, nearly sessile. Bracts deltoid-ovate, acuminate, 1 mm long. Sepals deltoid with hyaline margin, 1 mm long. Petals deciduous, elliptic, rounded or somewhat truncate at the apex, 2 mm long. Stamens 5, inserted between the rounded or slightly emarginate lobes of the disc; filaments somewhat dilated at the base, 3 mm long; anthers 1 mm long. Ovary conical, 2 mm long; styles 3, short, thick.

A native of the mediterranean region and nowadays widely cultivated.

Cultivated and subsontaneous (?) in the islands of the Netherlands Antilles.