

ROSACEAE

by

A. L. STOFFERS

(Utrecht)

Herbs, shrubs or trees. Leaves alternate or rarely opposite. Stipules present. Inflorescence various or the flowers solitary. Flowers actinomorphic, 5- or 4-merous, usually hermaphrodite or unisexual and then the plants dioecious. Receptacle conical or tubular to saucer-shaped. Sepals free, imbricate, deciduous or persistent. Epicalyx sometimes present. Petals free and then deciduous and imbricate or wanting. Stamens 2—4 times as many as the sepals or numerous, inserted on the margin of the receptacle; filaments filiform; anthers 2-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence. Pistils one to numerous; ovaries in our species uni-locular and 1-carpellary; style sometimes lateral; stigma small. Ovules 1 or 2, anatropous. Fruits of various types. Endosperm scanty or wanting.

About 3000 species in \pm 100 genera, cosmopolitan but rather few in the tropics.

Key to the genera:

Shrub, armed with straight or recurved prickles; leaves compound. *Rubus*

Unarmed shrubs or trees; leaves simple, with two glands on the lower surface of the leafblade at about 0.5—1 cm from the base *Prunus*

Prunus Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 473. 1753

Trees or shrubs. Leaves simple. Stipules small, deciduous. Flowers solitary or in racemes. Receptacle obconical, urn-shaped or tubular, deciduous with the sepals. Sepals 5. Petals 5. Stamens 12—20. Ovary uni-locular; style terminal. Ovules 2, pendulous. Drupe fleshy, 1-seeded, putamen bony. Endosperm scanty or wanting.

About 170 species, chiefly in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere.

Prunus myrtifolia (L.) Urb.

URBAN, Symb. Ant. 5: 93. 1904; Symb. Ant. 4: 260. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 77. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 199. 1913; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1):

258, fig. 110. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 249. 1920; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1(5): 318. 1932; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 220. 1951; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 313. 1972; — *Celastrus myrtifolius* LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 196. 1753; — *Prunus sphaerocarpus* SWARTZ, Prodr. 80. 1788; Fl. Ind. Occ. 2: 927. 1800; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 231. 1860; — *Laurocerasus myrtifolia* (L.) BRITTON, N. Am. Trees 510. 1908; BRITTON & MILLSPAUGH, Bahama Fl. 153. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 344. 1924.

Tree, up to about 10 m tall; branches terete, lenticellate. Leaves thinly coriaceous, elliptic to ovate-oblong, acuminate at the apex, rounded to cuneate at the base, 5—12 × 2—5 cm, glabrous, shining above, on the lower surface with 2 glands at about 0.5—1 cm from the base; petiole 0.5—1.5 cm long. Inflorescence consisting of simple, solitary, axillary racemes, usually about 7 cm long; peduncle about 1 cm long; pedicels slender, up to 5 mm long. Receptacle 1.5 mm long. Sepals minute, 0.5 mm long. Petals 2.5 mm long, white, broadly obovate. Stamens 12—20; filaments 2—3 mm long. Ovary 1.5 mm long; style 2.5 mm long. Fruit subglobose, 12—13 mm in diam., shiny, dark-brown to black-purple.

West Indies, Florida, Mexico, and northern South America.

Moist places, in dry evergreen forest (St. Eustatius).

ST. EUSTATIUS: slope of The Quill, 400 m (Boldingh 272 A, st. June).

Rubus Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 492. 1753

Prickly shrubs, perennial herbs, or trailing vines. Leaves simple or compound. Stipules adnate to the petiole. Flowers solitary or in panicles or corymbs, terminal and axillary, hermaphrodite or rarely dioecious. Receptacle saucer-shaped, conical in the middle. Sepals 5, persistent. Petals 5, deciduous. Stamens numerous, inserted on the margin of the receptacle. Ovaries numerous, inserted on the conical portion of the receptacle. Ovules 2, one abortive. Drupes crowded on the dry receptacle, 1-seeded.

Over 200 species, widely distributed, mainly in the northern hemisphere.

Rubus rosifolius J. E. Sm.

J. E. SMITH, Pl. Ic. Ined. pl. 60. 1791; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 260. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 259. 1905; Symb. Ant. 8: 248. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 341. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1(5): 319. 1932; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 217, fig. 92. 1951; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 315. 1972.

Shrub, up to about 1 m high; stems nearly terete, pilose or glabrate, armed with small, straight or recurved prickles. Leaves pinnately 5—7-foliolate; petiole and rhachis pilose and usually armed with prickles; leaflets lanceolate to ovate, sparingly pilose on both sides or glabrescent, the margin biserrate; the lateral ones sessile or nearly so, acute at the apex, rounded or cuneate at the base,

2—5 × 1—2 cm; the terminal one long-acuminate at the apex, rounded or slightly cordate at the base, 2—7 × 1—3 cm; petiole 3—4 cm long. Stipules filiform, partly adnate to the petiole. Flowers solitary or in few-flowered cymes; pedicels pilose. Receptacle about 2 mm long. Sepals lanceolate, long-acuminate, about 1.5 cm long. Petals obovate, white, 10 × 8 mm. Stamens numerous; filaments 4 mm long; anthers about 0.75 mm long. Ovaries roundish-ellipsoid, 0.5 mm long; style nearly terminal, 1.5 mm long. Fruit thimble-shaped, 1.5—2 cm long, drupelets bright red, juicy.

A native of south-eastern Asia; now generally distributed in the tropics.

Naturalized after planting in the higher parts of The Mountain on Saba.

SABA: slope of The Mountain at the Rendez-Vous side (Stoffers 3462, fl. & fr. June; Arnaldo 681, fl. Aug.); path to Rendez-Vous, 500 m (Arnoldo 3243, fl. & fr. Dec.).