

## MYRSINACEAE

by

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Trees or shrubs. Leaves alternate, rarely pseudo-verticillate or pseudo-opposite, entire, with small dots and lines (schizogenic cavities). Stipules wanting. Inflorescence various, terminal or axillary. Flowers hermaphrodite or unisexual, small, actinomorphic (3—)4—5(—6)-merous. Sepals free or more or less united, valvate, usually glandular-dotted, persistent. Petals usually united, mostly rotate or salverform, rarely tubular. Stamens as many as the petals and epipetalous; filaments short and adnate to the corolla or rarely free; anthers 2-celled, with longitudinal, introrse dehiscence. Ovary superior or more or less inferior, 1-locular, sessile; style 1, short or wanting; stigma various. Ovules few to numerous, anatropous or amphitropous, usually at least partly immersed in the central placenta. Fruit a berry or a drupe with stony endocarp, 1-seeded. Seed with copious endosperm. Embryo enclosed in the fleshy or horny endosperm.

About 1000 species in c. 35 genera in the tropics and subtropics.

Key to the genera:

1. Flowers in umbellate clusters on very short, scaly, axillary spurs; styles short or wanting; stigma conspicuous, large and fleshy, more or less conical. . . . . *Myrsine*  
Flowers in terminal racemes or panicles; style slender; stigma inconspicuous. . . . . *Ardisia*

*Ardisia* Swartz, Prodr. 3. 1788 nom. cons. 6285

Trees or shrubs. Leaves alternate, petiolate or subsessile, entire, dentate or serrate. Inflorescence consisting of axillary or terminal panicles or racemes. Flowers small, white or pink, pedicellate, hermaphrodite or polygamous, 4—5-merous. Sepals free or connate up to more than one-third of their length, dextrorse or rarely imbricate. Petals more or less united, dextrorse or sometimes imbricate or valvate. Stamens 4—5; filaments short, united with the petals; anthers long, sagittate, introrse. Ovary globose or ovoid, sessile; style slender, elongate; stigma small, punctiform truncate, or discoid. Ovules many. Fruit a berry, mucronulate by the remnants of the style. Embryo cylindrical, transverse. Endosperm horny.

Species about 240, chiefly in tropical Asia and America; a few species in Australia.

***Ardisia obovata* Desv.**

DESSAUX, in HAMILTON, Prodr. 26. 1825; - *Ardisia guadalupensis* DUCHASSAING ex GRISEBACH, Syst. Veg. Karaißen 89. 1857; GRISEBACH, in Goett. Abh. 7: 237. 1857; Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 396. 1861 ['1864']; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 382. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 3: 330. 1902; Symb. Ant. 4: 475. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 313. 1913; — *Ardisia coriacea* auct. non SWARTZ; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 151. 1909; MEZ in URBAN, Symb. Ant. 2: 397. 1901; — *Icacorea guadalupensis* (Duchass.) Britton, in Bull. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 8: 401. 1917; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 316. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 57. 1925.

Shrub or tree up to 10 m high; twigs stout, light grey, rusty-scaly when young. Leaves alternate; blades elliptic to elliptic-obovate, obtuse, broadly obtuse, acutish at the apex, cuneate or tapering at the base, 9—15 × 3—5.5 cm, coriaceous, midvein prominent beneath, finely veined, green above, paler green beneath, glandular-dotted; petioles stout, 0.5—1.3 cm long, rusty-scaly when young. Inflorescence consisting of terminal, many-flowered panicles up to 15 cm long; pedicels 2—5 mm long. Sepals 4 or usually 5, broadly ovate to subtriangular, 2—2.3 × 2 mm, obtuse at the apex, glandular-dotted, ciliate. Petals ovate to ovate-elliptic, 3—3.5 × 2—2.3 mm, obtuse to subacuminate at the apex, united at the base for about 0.5 mm, white, glandular-dotted or -lined. Filaments broad, ligulate, the free part about 0.5 mm long; anthers ovate to triangular, acute, 1.5 × 1 mm. Ovary globose, tapering into the stout, 1 mm long style; stigma minute. Fruit subglobose to depressed-globose, 6—8 mm in diam., black.

Bahamas, Puerto Rico to St. Lucia.

In rainforest or evergreen forests.

Vernacular name: bastard cinnamon (Windward Group).

SABA: gut between Mastic Gut and Hellsgate, 300—400 m (Boldingh 2032, st. July); Hellsgate (Boldingh 1704, fr. July; Suringar s.n., st. Ap. [L]).

ST. EUSTATIUS: top of The Quill, 400—480 m (Stoffers 3952, st. July; 3966, st. July; 3967a, st. July; Boldingh 196, st. June; 244, fr. June; 399, fr. June); top of The Quill above Glass Bottle (Stoffers 3583, st. July); rim of The Quill (Suringar s.n., fr. May [L]); Jenkins Gut (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Ap. [L]).

ST. MARTIN?: without loc. (Boldingh 3027, st.).  
Island? (Burgers 201, fl.; Suringar s.n., st. May [L]).

**Myrsine** Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 196. 1753

Shrubs or trees. Leaves alternate, petiolate, the margins serrate or crenate. Inflorescence consisting of axillary or lateral, umbellate clusters. Flowers 4—5-merous, mostly unisexual, pedicellate or subsessile. Sepals free or united, imbricate, ciliate. Petals connate at the very base only or up to half their length, imbricate. Stamens 4—5; filaments shorter than the petals, epipetalous and united with them at the base; anthers dorsifixed, with introrse dehiscence. Ovary globose or ellipsoid, glabrous; style short or wanting; stigma fleshy, simple or lobed, often conical. Ovules few. Fruit a drupe, globose, 1-seeded. Embryo cylindrical, transverse. Endosperm copious, horny.

Perhaps 150 species in tropics and subtropics.

**Myrsine coriacea** (Sw.) R. Br.

R. BROWN ex ROEMER & SCHULTES, Syst. Veg. 4: 511. 1819; STEARN, Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. 4: 175. 1969; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 564. 1972; — *Samara coriacea* SWARTZ, Prodr. 32. 1788; — *Rapanea coriacea* (SWARTZ) MEZ in URBAN, Symb. Ant. 2: 428. 1901; — *Rapanea ferruginea* (RUIZ & PAVON) MEZ, in URBAN, Symb. Ant. 2: 429. 1901; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 151. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 477. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 314. 1913; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 522. 1921; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 61. 1925; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 4: 112, fig. 43. 1957; — *Caballeria ferruginea* Ruiz & Pavon, Syst. Veg. Fl. Peruv. Chil. 250. 1798.

Shrub or tree up to 5 m high; twigs rusty-tomentose. Leaves alternate; blades lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, acute or acuminate at the apex, cuneate at the base, 5—8 × 1—2.3 cm, those of the sterile twigs up to 12 × 4 cm, green and glabrous above, paler and rusty-tomentulose beneath at least on the prominent midrib, lateral venation obsolete, chartaceous or coriaceous; petioles slender, 0.5—2 cm long, tomentulose. Inflorescence consisting of few-flowered, lateral or axillary clusters. Flowers nearly sessile, greenish, mostly, if not all, functionally unisexual. Calyx-tube about 0.5 mm long, the lobes triangular to ovate, acute at the apex, 0.5 mm long, glandular-dotted, ciliate. Corolla-tube 0.5—0.7 mm long, the lobes ovate, rounded or acutish at the apex, 1.5—2.5 mm long, glandular-dotted. Stamens with short filaments, adnate to the corolla; anthers acuminate at the apex, sagittate at the base, 1 mm long. In the male flowers anthers with ample pollen and pistillode 2.5—3 mm long. In the female flowers anthers without pollen; ovary well-developed, subglobose; stigma greenish, large and fleshy, more or less conical. Ovules 4—6. Berry globose, bluish, black when mature, 4—5 mm in diam.

Continental America from Mexico to Argentina, Antilles south to Grenada.

In secondary rainforest on Saba.

SABA: gut between Hellsgate and Sandy Cruz (Stoffers 3474, st. June); slope of The Mountain, at "Under the Cliff", 660 m (Stoffers 4240, st. Aug.); id., near Rendez-Vous, 600 m (Boldingh 2150a, st. July); id., 550 m (Stoffers 4263, st. Aug.); id., near Hellsgate (Boldingh 2278, fl. & fr. July); top of The Mountain, 800—825 m (Stoffers 4234, st. Aug.; Boldingh 1836a, st. July); road to The Mountain (Arnoldo 818, fl. Aug.).