

NYMPHAEACEAE

by

A. L. STOFFERS

(Botanisch Laboratorium, Nijmegen)

Aquatic, annual or commonly perennial herbs, generally with submersed rhizomes. Leaves alternate, floating or emersed, long-petiolate; blade peltate or falsely peltate. Stipules present or wanting. Flowers solitary, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, often fragrant; peduncle long. Sepals 4—15, free, usually green. Petals numerous, the innermost being petaloid staminodes. Stamens mostly numerous, acyclic; connective often produced beyond the anthers as a sterile appendage; anthers introrse, 2-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior, semi-inferior or inferior, 5—35-celled; styles wanting; stigmas united into a disk with radiating stigmatic lines. Ovules numerous in each cell, on parietal placentas or on the septae, anatropous. Fruit berry-like. Seeds often with an aril. Endosperm and perisperm present. Embryo straight; cotyledons thick.

About 90 species in 5 genera in fresh water; cosmopolitan.

Nymphaea Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 510. 1753 p.p. emend. J. E. Smith in Sibthorp & Smith, Fl. Graec. Prodr. I: 360. 1808/09

Aquatic herbs with perennial, elongate or tuberous rhizomes. Leaves floating, ovate to orbicular, cleft nearly to the centre. Flowers showy, solitary, floating or raised above the water, white or coloured. Sepals 4, inserted at the base of the cone-shaped receptacle. Petals many, in few- to several rows, inserted on the receptacle, passing gradually into the staminodes. Stamens numerous, inserted in a spiral; filaments petaloid, the outer ones broad with small anthers, the inner ones gradually narrower with larger anthers. Carpels immersed in the fleshy receptacle and united with it, forming in this way a many-celled, semi-inferior ovary; stigmas radiating. Ovules numerous, pendulous from the cell walls. Fruit a spongy berry, ripening under water and dehiscing irregularly. Seeds immersed in the pulp, with a sack-like aril, opening at the apex. Embryo small. Endosperm scanty, perisperm copious.

About 35 species, natives chiefly of the northern hemisphere and the tropics.

***Nymphaea ampla* (Salisb.) DC.**

DE CANDOLLE, Syst. 2: 54. 1821; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 11. 1859; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 8. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 235. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 190. 1913; Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 2: 30. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 183. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 222. 1920; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 159, fig. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 89. 1954; Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 96, fig. 156. 1954; Zakflora 171. 1964; — *Castalia ampla* SALISBURY, Par. Lond. 1: pl. 14. 1805; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 304. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1(1): 21. 1928; — *Nymphaea speciosa* MARTIUS & ZUCCARINI, Abhand. Muench. Akad. 1: 368. 1832.

Aquatic herb with tuberous rhizomes. Leaves floating, peltate; petiole strongly varying in length; blade up to 45 cm in diam., suborbicular with acute lobes at the base and sinuate, dentate or nearly entire margin, green above, red-purple beneath or marked with purplish-black blotches at both sides; veins prominent beneath, principle veins 5—14, reticulate. Flowers solitary, raised above the water, white, diurnal, 10—15 cm in diam. Sepals oblong-lanceolate, obtuse or acutish at the apex, the outer surface green and marked with black lines. Petals 7—21, oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, obtuse at the apex, the outer ones sometimes yellowish-green to lilaceous. Stamens 30—190, yellow, the outer longer than the inner ones and tinged with yellowish-green; anthers appendaged. Carpels 14—23, free from one another at the sides; styles short, stiff and fleshy. Seeds many in each cell, subglobose-elliptic, 1—1.5 mm long, with longitudinal rows of hairs.

Tropical and subtropical America from Texas to Brazil; West Indies.

In fresh water ponds and behind dikes in the rainy season; also cultivated.

Vernacular name: leli di awa (Leeward Group).

CURAÇAO: Santa Clara (Rutten-Pekelharing 278, fl. Jan.); Klein Santa Marta (Boldingh M23, fl. Jan.; Arnolde 1013, fl. March); Ronde Klip (Arnolde 1049, fl. March).

ST. EUSTATIUS: without loc. (v. Groll-Meyer s.n.).