

CARICACEAE

by

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Trees or shrubs, containing a milky juice, trunks usually unbranched and with pulpy wood. Leaves in a terminal crown, alternate, entire, palmately-lobed, palmatifid or palmately compound. Stipules wanting. Flowers unisexual (or hermaphrodite), actinomorphic, greenish, yellow or white. Calyx small 5-lobed or entire. Male flowers in panicles; corolla tubular or funnel-shaped, the lobes ovate or linear; stamens 10, inserted on the throat of the corolla; filaments free or united at the base; anthers 2-celled, introrse; ovary rudimentary or wanting. Female flowers solitary or in few-flowered cymose panicles; petals free or shortly united; ovary superior, free, sessile, ovoid, 1- or 5-celled; style short; stigmas 5, simple or lobed; ovules numerous on 3—5 parietal placentas. Fruit a berry seeds numerous flattened, with a roughened testa; embryo straight; endosperm present.

About 45 species in 4 genera, mainly in tropical America.

Carica Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 1036. 1753

Trees or shrubs. Leaves large, entire, subpeltately palmatisect, or digitately compound. Flowers unisexual or rarely hermaphrodite. Calyx short, with 5 triangular or linear teeth. Male flowers: corolla funnel-shaped or tubular; the lobes spreading; stamens 10, the epipetalous ones sessile or nearly so, the episepalous ones with short filaments; rudiment of ovary awl-shaped. Female flowers: petals linear-oblong, free or united at the base; staminodes wanting; ovary sessile 1- or 5-celled; style wanting or very short; stigmas 5, simple or lobed. Fruit pulpy within.

About 40 species, natives of tropical and subtropical America.

Carica papaya L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 1036. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 290. 1860; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 310. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 139. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 428. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 294. 1913; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 2: 70. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 456. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON,

Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 604. 1924; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 5(3): 244, fig. 94. 1926; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 38, fig. 44. 1954.

Tree, up to 6 m high; stem unbranched, soft, marked with the scars of fallen leaves. Leaves crowded at the top of the stem; petiole stout, up to 1 m long; blade suborbicular in outline, up to 70 cm in diam., palmately 5—8-lobed, pale or glaucous beneath; each lobe pinnately lobed, the segments obtuse, acute or acuminate. Flowers dioecious or polygamous. Male and polygamous flowers in pendulous, cymose panicles; peduncle long; calyx about 1 mm long, the lobes broadly triangular; corolla tubular, tube slender, up to 2 cm long, dilated near the top; lobes 1—1½ cm long, lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate; episepalous stamens with 2 mm long, hairy filaments, anthers 2 mm long; rudiment of ovary 5 mm long. Female flowers solitary or in 3-flowered cymes; calyx 5—10 mm long, the lobes longer than the tube; petals lanceolate, 4—5 cm long, only slightly connate at the base; ovary 1-celled; stigmas 5, strongly lobed. Fruit ovoid, ellipsoid, or roundish, strongly varying in size and variable in color as well of the wall as of the interior, but generally yellowish-green to dark yellow; seeds ellipsoidal, rough, black, angular, 6—7 mm long, enclosed in a membranaceous aril and lying in pockets of the pulpy, edible endocarp.

Widely cultivated in all tropical countries; its origin unknown.

Vernacular names: papaya (Leeward Group).
papaw (Windward Group).

CURAÇAO: without loc. (Aschenberg s.n. st.).

SABA: The Bottom (Boldingh 2269, st. July).

ST. EUSTATIUS: without loc. (v. Groll-Meyer 199, male fl.).