

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

by

A. L. STOFFERS

(Instituut voor Systematische Plantkunde, Utrecht)

Annual or perennial herbs, rarely undershrubs. Leaves opposite, simple, entire, generally united at the base by a transverse line. Stipules small, scarious or wanting. Flowers actinomorphic, solitary or in cymose inflorescences, hermaphrodite or rarely unisexual. Sepals 4—5, united or free, persistent. Petals as many as the sepals or wanting. Stamens 8—10 or less, inserted with the petals; anthers 2-celled with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior, uni-locular or rarely basically 2—5-locular; styles 2—5 or one style with 2—5 stigmas; ovules one to numerous, central, campylotropous or anatropous. Fruit a capsule, dehiscing by valves or by apical teeth, rarely baccate. Embryo curved, surrounding the mealy endosperm; the cotyledons narrow.

About 1500 species, widely distributed in the temperate regions, rarely in the tropics.

Drymaria Willdenow in Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 5: 406. 1819

Annual or perennial herbs. Stems glabrous or pubescent, usually prostrate. Leaves opposite, petiolate. Stipules small, scarious. Flowers solitary or in many-to few-flowered, terminal or axillary dichasia; bracts scarious. Sepals 5, free. Petals 5, bifid or parted, rarely wanting. Stamens 2—5, opposite the sepals. Ovary sessile, uni-locular; style united at the base, 3-fid above; ovules few to many. Capsule 3-valved; the seeds globose-reniform, granulate or rarely smooth.

About 70, closely allied species in tropical and subtropical America; one species also dispersed throughout the tropics of the Old World, and one species in West- and South Australia.

Drymaria cordata (L.) Willd.

WILLDENOW in ROEMER & SCHULTES, Syst. 5: 406. 1819; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 56. 1859; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 45. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 234. 1905;

BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 67. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 190. 1913; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 175, fig. 67. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 222. 1920; BRITTON & MILLSPAUGH, Bahama Fl. 137. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 297. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1(1): 48. 1929 and 1(8): 481. 1947; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 152, fig. 61. 1951; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 154. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 270. 1972; — *Holosteum cordatum* LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 88. 1753; — *Holosteum diandrum* SWARTZ, Prodr. 27. 1788; Fl. Ind. Occ. 221. 1800.

A weak, spreading annual herb; stems slender, up to 30 cm or more long, angular, glabrous or puberulous, often rooting at the nodes. Leaves petiolate; blade ovate-orbicular or kidney-shaped, obtuse or acutish at the apex, commonly subcordate at the base, 2–25 mm long and generally more broad than long, palmately veined, glabrous; petiole up to 3 mm long. Stipules membranaceous, divided into subulate segments. Dichasia many-flowered; peduncle and pedicels slender, glandular-puberulous. Sepals green, variable in size, 2–3¹/₂ mm long, lanceolate-elliptic, acute. Petals shorter than the calyx, white, deeply bifid. Stamens 5—2. Ovary ovoid; style short and deeply 3-fid. Capsule about as long as the sepals. Seeds 8—2, black, granulose, about 1 mm long.

Widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of both hemispheres.

A weed of moist, shady places.

Vernacular name: white snow (Windward Group).

SABA: The Bottom (Arnoldo 573, fl. Aug.; Suringar s.n., fl. Ap. [L]); between Windwardside and Hellsgate (Boldingh 1670, fl. & fr. July); along road between The Bottom and Windwardside, 200 m (Boldingh 1287, fl. & fr. July); Windwardside (Boldingh 2306, fl. July; Arnoldo 581, fl. & fr. Aug.); between Crispine and Small Rendez-Vous (Stoffers 3049, fl. Ap.; Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Ap. [L]); slope of The Mountain, "Under the Cliff", 680 m (Stoffers 3198, fl. & fr. May; 4246, fl. & fr. Aug.); Hellsgate (Burgers 510, fr. March); between The Bottom and Crispine (Stoffers 2971, fl. & fr. Ap.); Peperpot (Suringar s.n., fl. Ap.).

ST. MARTIN: Colombier (Arnoldo 1343, fl. March).