

THYMELAEACEAE

by

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Trees or shrubs with a tough inner bark. Leaves alternate, rarely opposite. Stipules wanting. Inflorescence consisting of axillary or terminal heads, racemes or spikes. Flowers actinomorphic, hermaphrodite or unisexual. Receptacle cylindrical, funnel-shaped or urn-shaped. Tepals 4 or 5, imbricate. Stamens usually twice as many as the tepals, inserted on the top of the receptacle; filaments short or elongate; anthers versatile or united with the filaments, longitudinal dehiscent. Disk ring or cup-like or represented by 4 or 5 scales, or wanting. Ovary superior, 1- or 2-locular; style very short to elongate; stigma terminal, capitate. Ovules solitary in each locule, pendulous. Fruit a drupe or nut, rarely a capsule or berry, enclosed by the persistent perianth. Seed-coat mostly crustaceous. Embryo straight. Endosperm sparse or wanting.

About 425 species in 37 genera: widely distributed, mainly in the temperate regions, chiefly in S. Africa, Australia, Mediterranean region, and central and western Asia.

Daphnopsis Martius & Zuccarini, Nov. Gen. Spec. 1: 65. 1824

Trees or shrubs, dioecious, usually with soft wood and leathery, flexible branches; stems unequally dichotomous or monopodial. Leaves alternate, simple, thin or coriaceous. Inflorescence consisting of terminal or axillary clusters, heads, umbels or racemes; peduncle sometimes branched. Flowers tetramerous, perigynous. Sepals subequal, or equal, imbricate, the outer ovate-triangular, often bearing a small exterior median horn below the apex, slightly cucullate, becoming reflexed and reverted at anthesis; the inner ovate-suborbicular, plane. Petals minute, 8 or 4, connate into an obscure faucal annulus or wanting. Receptacle campanulate, obconic or funnel-shaped, deciduous or persistent, in the male flower usually longer than in the female one, hairy on the innerside. Male flowers: stamens 8, in 2 series, inserted at two levels, the 4 upper opposite the sepals, the 4 lower alternating; filaments very small; anthers basifixed, introrse. Disk represented by 4 or 5 scales; ovary rudimentary. Female flower: staminodes minute or wanting; ovary on a long or short gynophore, oblong, uni-locular; style short, thick; stigma capitate. Fruit a small drupe, the receptacle partially or complete persistent at the base. Seeds without endosperm.

Species 46, natives of the West Indies and tropical America from Mexico to Peru and Brasil.

***Daphnopsis americana* (Mill.) J. R. Johnston**

J. R. JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34: 242. 1909; — *Laurus americana* MILLER, Dict. ed. 8. no. 10. 1768.

ssp. *caribaea* (Gris.) Nevl

NEVL, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 46: 315. 1959; — *Daphnopsis caribaea* GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 278. 1860; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 142. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 434. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 301. 1913; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 620. 1924; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 5(3): 290. 1926.

Tree (or shrub), up to 12 m tall; branchlets slender, lenticellate, glabrescent. Leaves entire, chartaceous, lanceolate to elliptic, lanceolate-oblong or oblanceolate, acute or acuminate at the apex, cuneate at the base, 6—16(—20) × 3—6 cm, glabrous, more or less shining above, reticulate-veined, the midrib prominent on both sides; petiole slender, (5—)10—13 mm long. Inflorescence borne from the young parts. Flowers with the petals connate into an obscure faucal annulus simple or dichotomous proliferated. Staminate inflorescence many flowered, umbelliform; peduncle usually not exceeding 3 cm in length; pedicels 0.5—3.5 mm long; bracts linear, 5 × 1—2 mm; bracteoles ovate, 1.5 × 1 mm. Male flowers: receptacle club-shaped, 5—6 mm long, tomentose outside; sepals 4, broadly ovate, rounded at the apex; stamens 8; anthers subsessile, 1 × 1 mm; filaments of the 4 upper united with the tepals, the 4 lower attached at the top of the receptacle; pistillode 1.5 mm long. Female inflorescence umbelliform; peduncle 3—10 mm long; pedicels 1—3 mm long. Female flower: receptacle funnel-shaped, becoming campanulate at length, 3 mm long; sepals rounded, recurved, 1.5 × 1 mm; staminodia 8, papilliform; pistil 1.5—2.0 mm, stigma exserted; drupe ovoid, about 6 mm long; seed ovoid, 4—5 mm long, pointed, blackish.

Antilles and Central America.

In forests.

Vernacular name: maho (Windward Group).

SABA: Spring Bay Gut (Boldingh 2077, st. July); Great Hill, 400 m (Boldingh 1386, st. July); seaside of Tent Cut Hill, 100 m (Boldingh 1654, st. July); along road from The Bottom to Windwardside, 200 m (Boldingh 1359, male fl. July; Arnoldo 920, male fl. Aug.); Hellsgate (Boldingh 1699, male fl. July); Bottom Hill (Arnoldo 620, fr. Aug.); between Hellsgate and Windwardside (Stoffers 4139, male fl. Aug.); Castle Hill, seaside, 300—500 m (Stoffers 4198, st. Aug.); Booby

Hill, 400 m (Stoffers 4305, male flb. Aug.; 4335, male fl. Aug.; 4277, male fl. Aug.); Wellridge (Suringar s.n., st. Ap. [L]); Parish Hill (Suringar s.n., flb. Ap. [L]).

SR. EUSTATIUS: top of The Quill, 450 m (Boldingh 397, st. June); *ibid.*, 400 m (Boldingh 251, st. June; 197, st. June; Stoffers 3962, flb. July); slope of The Quill at the side of White Wall, 200 m (Boldingh 1177, male fl. June); near the top of The Quill above Glass Bottle (Stoffers 3906, st. July; 3585, flb. July; 3557, male fl. July); slope of The Quill between Glass Bottle and White Wall, 270 m (Stoffers 2044, fr. Aug.).

SR. MARTIN: Milldrum Hill, 200—300 m (Boldingh 3119, st. Sept.; 3124, flb. Sept.); Mount Paradise, 300—400 m (Boldingh 3240, st. Sept.); Cul de Sac (Boldingh 2604, male fl. Aug.).