

Topic: Euphorbiaceae

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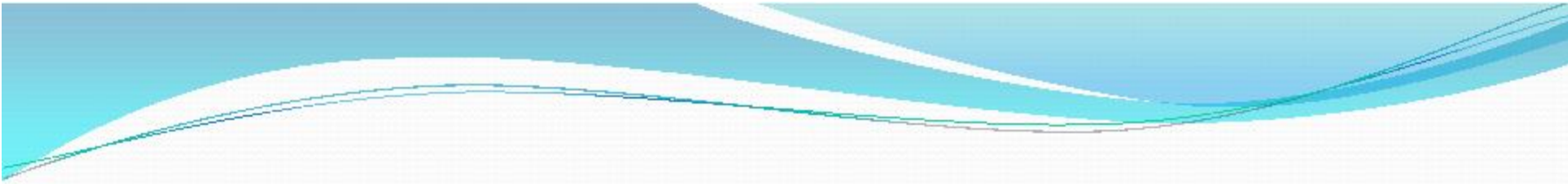
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Euphorbiaceae

Perianth: Perianth is mostly in one whorl, green or rarely petaloid (*Manihot*). Rarely perianth is in two whorls as in *Jatropha* or absent as in *Euphorbia*. In *Jatropha*, both calyx and corolla are present. Both calyx and corolla are five membered with united petals. Aestivation is valvate or imbricate type.

Androecium: The Androecium show variable number of stamens. In male flowers they range from one to many arranged in one to ten whorls. Filaments are free or united. The anthers are monothealous or dithealous, erect and dehisce longitudinally or transversely.



Gynoecium: The gynoecium is tricarpeal, syncarpous with superior, trilobular ovary. One or two collateral, pendulous, anatropous ovules in each locule in axile placentation are present. At the base of the ovaries nectarines are present.

Pollination: Unisexual flowers necessitate cross pollination and here pollination is entomophilous taking place with the help of insects. This is due to the presence of brightly coloured glands or bracts, petaloid calyx or nectar. Certain taxa, such as Mercurials with long thread like styles are anemophilous.

Fruit: Fruit is usually three chambered, schizocarpic splitting into

three one-seeded cocci. Rarely drupe (*Phyllanthus*) or berry (*Bischofia*).

Seed: Seeds are with fleshy endosperm and straight embryo. The seeds are often with a conspicuous caruncle. Seeds are dispersed by birds and animals. Some seeds are also dispersed by explosive mechanism of the capsules.

Floral Formulae:

The floral formulae of different genera are as follows:

<i>Euphorbia</i> —	$\overset{\bullet}{\sigma} K0, C0, A1$ $\varphi K0, C0, G(3).$
<i>Ricinus</i> —	$\oplus \overset{\bullet}{\sigma} K5, C0, A5$ (branched) $\oplus \varphi K3, C0, G(3).$
<i>Croton</i> —	$\oplus \overset{\bullet}{\sigma} K5, C5, A \infty$ $\oplus \varphi K5, C5, G(3).$