

Melastomataceae

Field characters:

Plants usually woody; leaves simple, opposite, often triplinerved, stipules absent; stamens usually 8, with appendages; ovary inferior or semi-inferior.

Confused with:

Myrtaceae: Leaves with pellucid dots, stamens numerous.

Crypteroniaceae: Twigs thickened at the nodes, petals usually minute or absent, anthers without appendages.

Description:

Habit: Trees, lianas and shrubs; rarely herbs; twigs without thickened nodes.

Sap: absent

Stipules: absent, rarely pseudo-stipules present.

Leaves: leaves simple, opposite, rarely in whorls, usually without pellucid dots, triplinerved.

Flowers: usually hermaphroditic, petals often showy and colourful; stamens usually 5, rarely 3, with appendages and usually the anthers opening with pores.

Ovary: (semi-) inferior, usually 4-5 celled with numerous axile ovules.

Fruits: berries or dry capsules.



Melastoma malabatricum



Pternandra rostrata



Fruits with star-shaped ridges of Memecylon sp.

Main genera:

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| <i>Anerinckleistus</i> | Leaves anisophyllous. |
| <i>Astronia</i> | Trees, Leaves with pellucid dots, usually with scales, stellate hairs or cystoliths. |
| <i>Blastus</i> | Leaves with glands on the lamina and sometimes anisophyllous. |
| <i>Dalenia</i> | Climber with a raised ridge between the petioles. |
| <i>Diplectria</i> | Climber with a raised ridge between the petioles. |
| <i>Dissochaeta</i> | Climber with a raised ridge between the petioles; sometimes with swollen nodes; Stellate hairs present and sometimes with scales. |
| <i>Medinilla</i> | Climber to shrubs, often epiphytes, stellate hairs present. |
| <i>Melastoma</i> | Shrubs with dendroid hairs. |
| <i>Memecylon</i> | Small trees to shrubs, Fruit 1-locular, 1-2 seeded, top with star-shaped ridges; Leaves usually penninerved, venation often indistinct. |
| <i>Pachycentria</i> | Epiphyte with swollen stems; fruits urn-shaped . |
| <i>Pternandra</i> | Small trees with swollen nodes and spiny fruits. |
| <i>Sonerila</i> | Herbs with spiral sometimes anisophyllous leaves; 3-merous flowers. |