

# Myrsinaceae

**Field characters:** Leaves spiral or alternate, simple, penninerved, stipules absent. Petals connate at base, contorted, Stamens opposite the petals; ovary 1-locular.

**Description:**

**Habit:** Trees, shrubs, lianas and herbs.

**Sap:** rarely present.

**Stipules:** absent.

**Leaves:** Leaves spiral or alternate, simple, penninerved, often with red or black dots

**Flowers:** usually 5-merous, usually with dots, calyx usually persistent, petals connate at base, contorted, stamens opposite the petals.

**Ovary:** usually superior, 1-locular.

**Fruit :** drupe, 1-locular, globose, style persistent.

**Confused with:**

**Myristicaceae:** red sap, seed arillate.

**Ochnaceae:** no dots, stipules present.



Branches swollen at base



Ardisia flowers



Ardisia Fruits



Maesa sp.



Labisia sp.

**Genera:**

**Aegiceras:**

Viviparous shrubs in mangroves.

**Ardisia:**

Herbs, shrubs or small trees. Branches swollen at base, leaving large scars when shed.

**Embelia:**

Climbers, sometimes with spines.

**Labisia:**

Herbs with creeping stems.

**Maesa:**

Small trees, shrubs and climbers. Leaves without dots, ovary semi inferior.

**Rapanea:**

Small trees and shrubs. Flower unisexual in clusters.