

FLORA OF BANGLADESH

NO. 78

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

EDITOR
SARDER NASIR UDDIN

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By
MAHBUBA SULTANA
AND
AHMED SAQEE

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LIST OF FAMILIES PUBLISHED

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ARISTOLOCHIACEAE A.L. de Jussieu

Mahbuba Sultana and Ahmed Sagee

Herbaceous perennial, often woody at the base, undershrubs or shrublets, erect, prostrate, scrambling or woody climbers. Leaves simple, alternate, mostly entire, sometimes trilobed or pellucid-punctate, exstipulate. Flowers solitary, or in terminal or lateral racemes or cymes, bisexual, regular or irregular, epigynous or sometimes only hemi-epigynous or perigynous. Calyx synsepalous, tubular at least below, regular, 3-lobed to more often distinctly irregular (often S-shaped or pipe-shaped) and then 3-lobed to 1-lobed. Petals wanting or much reduced, well-developed and alternate with the 3 calyx lobes, nectaries consisting of 2 (or more) patches of secretary hairs within the perianth-tube. Stamens 4-many, most commonly 6, in one or less often 2 cycles, occasionally 12, free or with the filaments (or both filaments and anthers) joined to the style to form a gynostemium, anthers tetrasporangiate and dithecal, extrorse, pollen-grain more or less globose, large to medium-sized. Gynoecium of 4-6 carpels, distinct above the base and free from the hypanthium above the middle, superior, ovary half-inferior or inferior, partly or completely partitioned into 4-6 loculi, style short and stout, stigma spreading, as many as the carpels, placentation axile or parietal, ovules numerous in each locule, mostly anatropous, horizontal and pendulous. Fruit usually dehiscent capsule, many-seeded, rarely follicular or indehiscent. Seeds 1-many; endosperm oily rarely starchy, fleshy, sometimes with a thickened or winged raphe; embryo minute.

The family Aristolochiaceae consists of about 8 genera and 600 species, distributed primarily in tropical and subtropical regions. In Bangladesh, the family represents by 2 genera and 9 species.