

PAPAVERACEAE

by

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Annual or perennial herbs, with milky or coloured juice. Leaves alternate, entire or pinnatifid or palmatifid. Stipules wanting. Flowers usually solitary, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic. Sepals 2, rarely 3 or 4, free, very caducous. Petals 4, rarely more or wanting, free, imbricate, deciduous. Stamens numerous; filaments free, filiform; anthers 2-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior, unilocular, with 2—16, sometimes protruding, parietal placentas; style obsolete; stigmas as many as the carpels, opposite or alternating with the placentas. Ovules numerous or only one central ovule. Fruit a capsule, opening by pores or valves, rarely indehiscent. Seeds small, with a crested smooth raphe or arillate. Embryo minute. Endosperm fleshy or oily.

About 250 species in 28 genera, mostly in the temperate and subtropical regions of the northern hemisphere.

Argemone Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 508. 1753

Erect, mostly annual, glaucous herbs with yellow juice. Leaves sessile, pinnatifid with spiny teeth. Flowers solitary, terminal, surrounded by foliaceous bracts. Sepals 2—3, valvate, caducous in anthesis, falling off together. Petals 4—6, strongly plicate in bud, patent during anthesis. Stamens numerous; filaments filiform; anthers basifixed, extrorse. Ovary ovoid to oblong; style very short or wanting; stigmas distinct. Ovules numerous on 4—6 placentas. Capsule opening by 4—6 short valves, dehiscing from the apex and loosening from the placentas, leaving a mitre-shaped replum attached to the style base. Seeds numerous, globular, reticulate-ribbed. Embryo cylindrical. Endosperm oily.

Nine species in Mexico, West Indies, and western and eastern United States; one species introduced into the Old World and nowadays a pantropical weed.

***Argemone mexicana* L.**

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 508. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 13. 1859 ['1864']; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 8. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 250. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 71. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 212. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 194. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 31. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 221, fig. 91. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 236. 1920; BRITTON & MILLSPAUGH, Bahama Fl. 145. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 325. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 23. 1929; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 108. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 193, fig. 81. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 96, fig. 109. 1954; Zakflora 174, fig. 109. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 162. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 301. 1972; FOURNET, Fl. Guadeloupe & Martinique 515, fig. 245. 1978.

Annual, thistle-like, glabrous herb, 20—50(—100) cm high, containing a bitter, yellow juice. Stem terete, pithy with scattered prickles. Lower leaves petiolate, crowded and forming a rosette; higher leaves sessile, clasping by a narrow base, 8—25 × 3—8 cm, very variable in shape, sinuate-pinnatifid, glaucous, white variegate-prunose along the main veins, spiny-toothed and more or less spiny on the veins. Flowers sessile or subsessile, 4—8 cm broad, orange or yellow, subtended by 1—3 leafy bracts. Sepals about 2 cm long, acuminate, pouched and spiny at the apex, provided with a few prickles. Petals obovate, 2—3 cm long. Stamens not exceeding the ovary in length; filaments about 10 mm long; anthers about 2.5 mm long. Ovary ovoid, 8—10 mm long, provided with long, soft bristles; style wanting; stigma dark red, 3—6-lobed. Capsule 2.5—4 cm long and 1.5—2 cm wide, furrowed, dehiscent to about $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3—6 valves. Seeds globular, 1.5—2 mm in diam., reticulate-pitted, black-brown, with prominent, pale hilum.

Native of the West Indies and tropical continental America; introduced into the tropics of the Old World and in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

A common weed.

Vernacular names: chimichimi, polbu shimaron (Leeward Group).
thistle (Windward Group).

ARUBA: Dacota (Arnoldo 277, fl. Dec.); Oranjestad (Stoffers 1802, fl. Jan.); slope of Hooiberg (Stoffers 2096, fl. Feb.); Rooi Takki (Stoffers 1848, fl. Jan.).

BONAIRE: Seashore south of Kralendijk (Stoffers 513, fl. & fr. Nov.); along the coast (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]); Fontein (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]); Rincón (Boldingh 7088, fl. & fr. Feb.); Jatoe Bacoë (Suringar s.n., st. Feb. [L]).

CURAÇAO: hofje near Jan Thiel (Nagelkerken 329, fl. Jan.); Piscadera Baai (de Wilde 41A, fl. Dec. [L]); Fort Nassau (Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]); Savonet Baai (Suringar s.n., fl. Jan. [L]); without loc. (Aschenberg s.n., fl. & fr.).

SABA: The Bottom (Boldingh 2271, fr. July; Arnoldo 888, fl. & fr. Aug.); Fort Bay (Stoffers 2901, fl. Ap.).

ST. EUSTATIUS: seashore near Oranjestad (Boldingh 43, fl. & fr. May); Cultuurvlakte (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Ap. [L]); without loc. (v. Groll-Meyer 20, fl.).

ST. MARTIN: Kanaal Rolandus (Stoffers 2247, fl. & fr. March); near Great Saltpond (Arnoldo 1330, st. March).