

## ORDER CI. MYRISTICÆ.

Flowers dicœious, regular. Perianth deciduous, 3-lobed or rarely 2- or 4-lobed, the lobes valvate in the bud. Male fl. Stamens united in a central column; anthers 3, 6, or more adnate to the column at the apex, or in a ring immediately below the column, each with 2 parallel cells opening longitudinally. Female fl. Ovary free within the perianth, with a single erect anatropous ovule; stigma sessile or nearly so, capitate or depressed. Fruit succulent, opening tardily in 2 valves. Seed erect, sessile, more or less covered with a lobed or jagged often scarlet arillus (or arilodium) proceeding from the base of the seed. Albumen remarkably ruminant. Embryo very small, at the base of the seed, with divaricate cotyledons.—Trees, often aromatic. Leaves alternate, entire, usually dotted, penniveined, without stipules. Flowers small, in axillary or supra-axillary racemes or panicles, more numerous in the males than in the females. Bracts minute or none.

The Order is limited to the single genus *Myristica*.

### 1. MYRISTICA, Linn.

Characters those of the Order.

The genus is entirely tropical, most abundant in the Eastern Archipelago, with a few species from Continental India or from the Mascarene and South Pacific islands, and several from tropical America. The only Australian species may be endemic, but is closely allied to an Indian one.