

3. MELASTOMA, Linn.

Calyx-tube campanulate or ovoid ; lobes or teeth 5 or rarely 6, deciduous, with or without small alternate accessory lobes or appendages. Petals obcordate or obovate. Stamens twice as many as petals ; anthers elongated, opening at the top in a single pore, very unequal, 5 larger, with the connective produced below into a long appendage incurved and 2-lobed or 2-pointed at the lower end, 5 smaller, with the appendage shorter or wanting. Ovary 5- or rarely 6-celled, crowned with a few stiff hairs or bristles. Fruit truncate after the fall of the calyx-lobes, the capsule or berry more or less succulent or pulpy and bursting irregularly. Seeds cochleate.—Shrubs, more or less strigose or hairy. Leaves usually ovate, 3- or more-nerved. Flowers terminal, solitary or few together in cymes, often large and showy ; the calyx usually covered with bristles or scales.

A considerable genus, extending over tropical Asia and the Pacific islands. The only Australian species is a common one in India and the Archipelago.

4. **MEMECYLON**, Linn.

Calyx-tube hemispherical or campanulate, the limb entire or obtusely 4-lobed, rarely 5-lobed. Petals 4 or rarely 5, ovate or orbicular. Stamens twice as many as petals, all equal and similar; anthers short, with a thick connective, forming a conical spur at the base, the cells opening in longitudinal slits. Ovary entirely adnate to the calyx-tube, 1-celled, with 6 to 12 ovules, verticillate round a short central placenta; style filiform, with a small stigma. Fruit a berry, crowned by the calyx-teeth or border, or by a circular scar only. Seeds solitary or rarely 2 or 3; testa somewhat crustaceous; cotyledons very much convolute or variously folded, usually enclosing the radicle.—Trees or shrubs. Leaves coriaceous, with 1 prominent midrib and pinnate veins often scarcely perceptible. Flowers usually small, in axillary clusters or cymes.

The genus is spread over the tropical regions of the Old World, the species especially numerous in Ceylon and the Indian Archipelago. The only Australian one is also in Ceylon and the Indian Peninsula.

1. OSBECKIA, Linn.

Calyx-tube ovoid globular or urceolate; lobes or teeth 4 or 5, deciduous, with appendages between them, which are usually bristle-like, terminating in a tuft of hairs. Petals obovate. Stamens twice as many as petals, all equal and similar or nearly so; anthers opening in a single pore at the summit, and without any or scarcely any appendage at the base of the connective. Ovary 4- or 5-celled, crowned with bristles. Fruiting-calyx usually truncate after the fall of the lobes; capsule opening at the top in as many valves as there were cells to the ovary. Seeds cochleate.—Herbs undershrubs or rarely shrubs. Leaves sessile or petiolate, 3-, 5- or 7-nerved. Flowers usually terminal, in clusters or short racemes, often forming leafy panicles, rarely solitary. Calyx-tube often more or less covered with bristles or ciliate scales.

The genus comprises a few African species besides a considerable number from tropical Asia and the Archipelago, including one of the Australian ones, the other Australian species is endemic.

Flowers 4-merous. Scales of the calyx with long bristles, 5 alternating with the lobes and sometimes a few below the middle of the tube.

 Anthers with long slender beaks 1. *O. chinensis*.

Flowers 5-merous. Scales of the calyx with short bristles, very numerous and completely covering the tube. Anthers with short beaks . 2. *O. australiana*.

2. **O. australiana**, *Naud. in Ann. Sc. Nat. ser. 3. xiv. 59.* A shrub, attaining several feet, more or less scabrous-pubescent. Leaves linear or lanceolate, 3-nerved, mostly 1 to 2 in. long or smaller on the side-branches. Flowers usually 3 to 7, at the ends of the branches, in a cyme, sessile, but not so dense as in *O. chinensis*. Calyx-tube nearly globular, about 3 lines diameter, densely covered with tufts of rather short bristles (bristly scales); lobes 5, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, much shorter than the tube, ciliate but without a terminal tuft of hairs. Petals twice as long as the calyx-tube. Anthers with a short broad beak. Capsule 5-celled.

N. Australia. Melville Island, *Fraser*; M'Adam Range and Arnhem's Land, *F. Mueller*; Port Essington, *Armstrong*.