

FAMILY EUPHORBIACEAE (EUPHORBIOIDEAE)

Herbs, shrubs, and trees, rarely vines

Many xerophytic and cactoid

Plants with milky latex

Leaves alternate, sometimes opposite or whorled

Leaves simple or compound

Flowers unisexual, but plants monoecious

Flowers actinomorphic

Flowers borne in a cyathium

The cup-like portion of the cyathium, the involucre, usually containing several staminate flowers and one pistillate flower

Staminate flowers reduced to a single stamen

Pistillate flowers reduced to a tricarpellate, trilocular gynoecium

Both types of flowers pedicillate

Ovary superior

Fruit schizocarp

Some Common Names: Euphorbia, Croton, Stinging Nettle

Some Important Plants: Many ornamentals; Rubber Plant; Cassava, Tapioca

Member of Subclass Rosidae

	Primitive	Advanced
Sepals		
None		x
Petals		
None		x
Stamens		
1		x
Pistil		
1 pistil		x
3 united carpels		x
Ovary superior	x	
Symmetry		
Actinomorphic	x	