

Family 21. MYRICACEAE

A. G. MILLER

Trees or shrubs, monoecious or dioecious, evergreen, aromatic. Leaves alternate, simple. Stipules absent. Flowers in dense catkin-like axillary spikes, each usually subtended by scale-like bracts and bracteoles. Male flowers: perianth absent, with 2–12 stamens. Female flowers: ovary superior, 1-locular with a single basal ovule; style short with 2 slender branches. Fruit a drupe.

MYRICA L.

Description as for the family.

1. *M. humilis* Chamisso & Schlechtendal in Linnaea 6: 535 (1831). Syn.: *M. salicifolia*

A. Rich. (1850 p.277). Illustr.: Fl. Ethiopia 3: 260 (1989); Collenette (1985 p.372).

Tree up to 7m. Leaves coriaceous, oblong-elliptic to oblong-ovate, 5–12 × 1.5–4.5cm, acute or obtuse, the margin entire or undulate to obscurely serrate, the base rounded to cuneate, covered with small yellow glands especially beneath; petiole 0.5–2cm. Male spikes 0.5–2.5 × c.0.5cm, tomentose; bracts broadly-ovate, c.1.5 × 2mm. Female spikes 3–15mm, elongating to 2–3cm in fruit; bracts triangular-ovate, c.1 × 1–2mm. Fruit subglobose to ellipsoid, 3–4 × 2–3mm, covered with flaking white warts and small yellow glands. **Map 75, Fig. 11.**

Wadi-sides, steep slopes and ravines (degraded evergreen woodland); 1525–2900m.

Saudi Arabia, Yemen (N). Tropical Africa.

An Afromontane species.

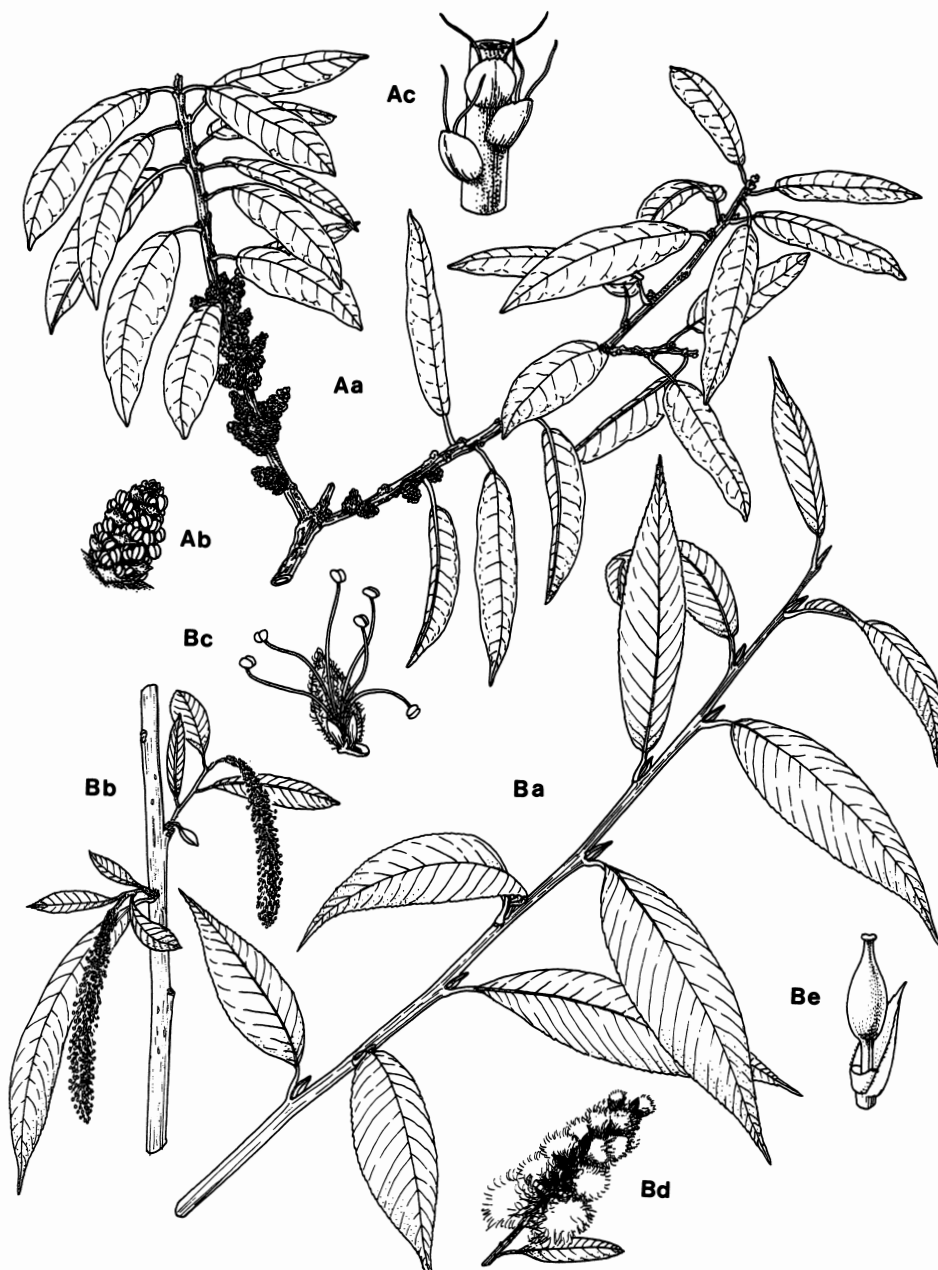
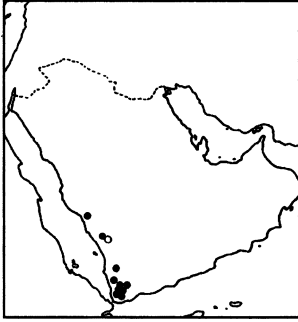


Fig. 11. Myricaceae. A, *Myrica humilis*: Aa, male flowering branch ($\times 0.6$); Ab, male flowers ($\times 2$); Ac, female flowers ($\times 2$). **Salicaceae.** B, *Salix mucronata*: Ba, sterile branch ($\times 0.6$); Bb, male catkins ($\times 0.6$); Bc, male flower ($\times 7$); Bd, female catkin ($\times 0.6$); Be, female flower ($\times 7$).

Distribution Maps



Map 75. *Myrica humilis*