

## MORINGACEAE

## Family 59. MORINGACEAE

A. G. MILLER

Deciduous trees. Leaves large, alternate, 2–3-pinnate; leaflets mainly opposite, entire, the base of the petiolules and pinnae articulated and with stipitate glands. Stipules minute or absent. Flowers bisexual, zygomorphic, in axillary panicles. Sepals 5, free above the cup-shaped receptacle. Petals 5, free, unequal. Stamens 5, epipetalous or inserted on the margin of the disc, alternating with 3–5 staminodes. Ovary superior, 1-locular, with numerous ovules on 3 parietal placentas; style terminal, filiform with a minute stigma. Fruit a pendant 3-valved capsule. Seeds wingless or 3-winged.

Verdcourt, B. (1985). A synopsis of Moringaceae. *Kew Bull.* 40: 1–23.

## MORINGA Adanson

1. Seeds wingless; leaflets soon deciduous, narrowly oblong-obovate, 1–6mm broad; leaf axes persistent **1. *M. peregrina***  
+ Seeds 3-winged; leaflets usually persistent, elliptic to obovate, 3–15mm broad; leaf axes falling with the leaflets **2. *M. oleifera***

**1. M. peregrina** (Forsskal) Fiori in Agric. Colon. 5: 59 (1911). Syn.: *Hyperantha peregrina* Forsskal (1775 pp.CVII & 67; *Moringa aptera* Gaertn., Fruct. sem. pl. 2: 315 (1791); *M. arabica* Pers., Syn. pl. 1: 461 (1805). Illustr.: Miller (1988 p.211);

Western (1989 p.84). Type: Yemen (N), *Forsskal* (C).

Tree up to 4(–10)m. Leaves up to 30cm long, the leaf axes persistent but the leaflets soon deciduous; leaflets narrowly oblong-obovate, 10–20 × 1–6mm, obtuse. Sepals narrowly oblong, 8–9 × 1.5–2mm, acuminate. Petals white or streaked red or pink, oblong-obovate, 8–15 × 2–4mm, obtuse. Capsule cylindrical, 10–30 × 1–1.5cm, deeply longitudinally ribbed, somewhat torulose; seeds ovoid, slightly 3-angled, 13–15 × 8–10mm, whitish brown. **Map 646, Fig. 88.**

Cliffs and rocky slopes, sandy and rocky wadi-beds; 50–1400m.

**Saudi Arabia, Yemen (N & S), Oman, UAE.** NE tropical Africa, SW Asia to ?Pakistan.

**2. *M. oleifera*** Lam., Encycl. 1: 398 (1785). Syn.: *M. pterygosperma* Gaertn., Fruct. sem. pl. 2: 314 (1791). Illustr.: Fl. Trop. E. Afr.: 10 (1986).

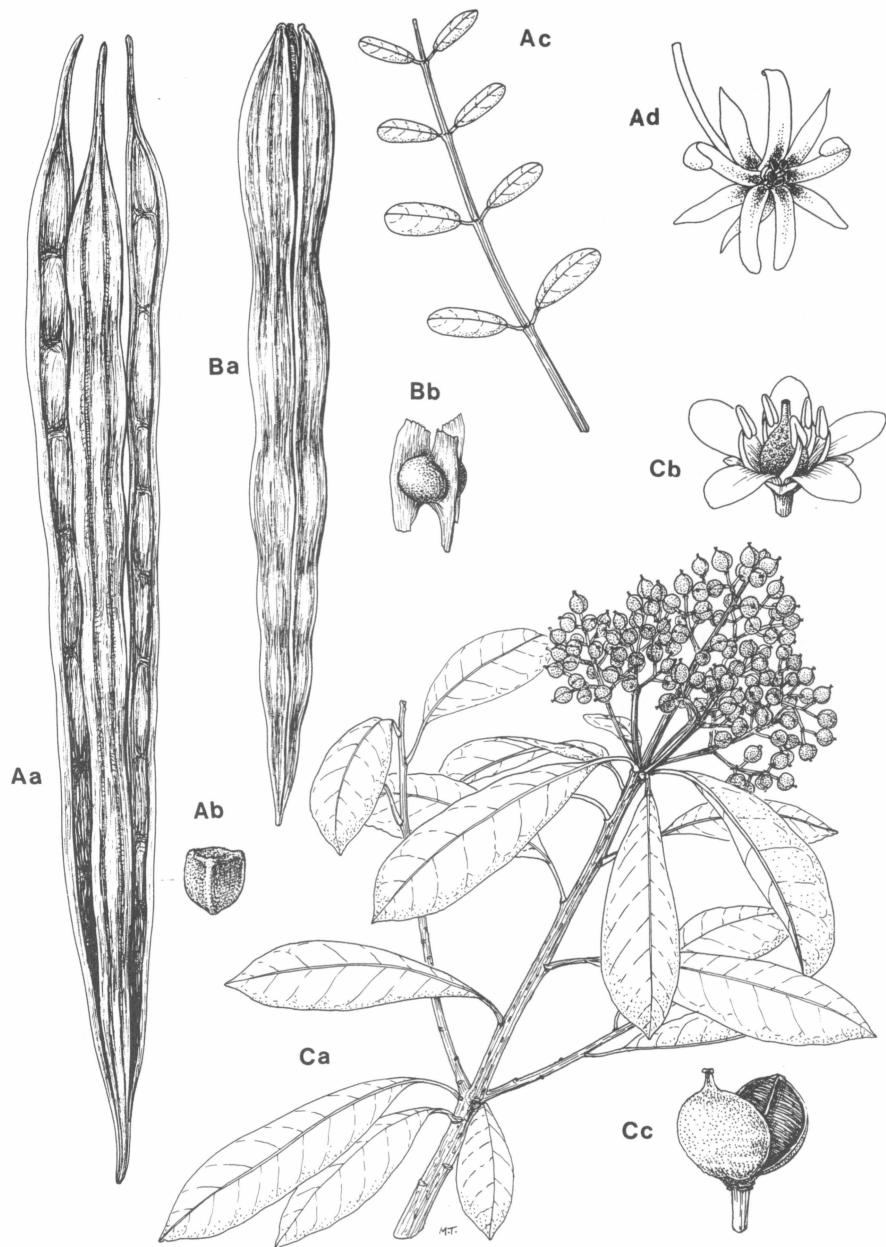
Similar to *M. peregrina* but the leaflets persistent, the leaf axes deciduous together with the leaflets; leaflets elliptic to obovate, 5–25(–30) × 3–15(–20)mm; petals white, cream or tinged yellow; capsule 3-angled in section; seeds 3-winged. **Map 647, Fig. 88.**

Cultivated in gardens; 30–50m.

**Yemen (N & S), Oman.** A native of India and Pakistan now widely cultivated in the tropics.

Cultivated as an ornamental, and for the oil extracted from its seeds.

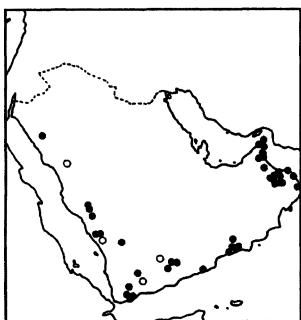
MORINGACEAE



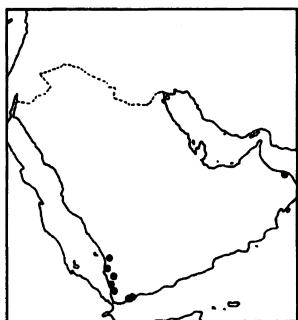
**Fig. 88.** Moringaceae. A, *Moringa peregrina*: Aa, fruit ( $\times 0.6$ ); Ab, seed ( $\times 0.6$ ); Ac, leaf ( $\times 0.6$ ); Ad, flower ( $\times 1.5$ ). B, *M. oleifera*: Ba, fruit ( $\times 0.6$ ); Bb, seed ( $\times 0.6$ ). Pittosporaceae. C, *Pittosporum viridiflorum*: Ca, fruiting branch ( $\times 0.6$ ); Cb, flower ( $\times 5$ ); Cc, fruit ( $\times 8$ ).

## Distribution Maps

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Map 646. *Moringa peregrinae*



Map 647. *M. oleifera*