

Family 51. HYDNORACEAE

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Subterranean parasitic herbs, lacking leaves, often with massive root systems spreading laterally from the host; roots terete, 4-5-angled or sometimes flattened, covered

with warty outgrowths. Flowers solitary, appearing above ground after rain, tubular below, 3–5-lobed above; lobes valvate, fleshy, patent and resting on the soil or remaining connate at the tips and the flower then opening by lateral slits. Anthers sessile, inserted on the perianth tube. Ovary inferior, 1-locular, with numerous infolded placentas and many ovules; stigma sessile, cushion-shaped, grooved. Fruit globose, ripening below ground, many-seeded

Harms, H. (1935). Hydnoraceae in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam., ed. 2, 16b: 282–295; Musselman, L.J. (1984). Some parasitic angiosperms of Sudan: Hydnoraceae, Orobanchaceae and Cuscuta (Convolvulaceae). *Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh.* 42: 21–38; Musselman, L.J. & Visser, J.H. (1989). Taxonomy and natural history of *Hydnora* (Hydnoraceae). *Aliso* 12 (2): 317–326.

HYDNORA Thunb.

Description as for the family.

1. *H. johannis* Beccari in Nuovo Giorn. Bot. Ital., 3: 5 (1871). Syn.: *H. abyssinica* A.Br. ex Decne in Bull. Soc. Bot. France 20: 76 (1873). Illustr.: Collenette (1985 p.260); Miller (1988 p.149) as *H. aff. africana*.

Roots fleshy, up to 5cm across. Flowers (3–)4(–5)-merous, foetid, 5–25cm long; perianth tube 3–4cm diam.; lobes hooded at the tips, 6–8cm × 1.5–2cm, bright red, pale orange or pink within, densely hairy at base. Fruit fleshy, 10–15cm diam. **Map 444, Fig. 62.**

In sandy wadis; parasitic on *Acacia* and ?*Tamarix* spp; 100–1500m.

Saudi Arabia, Yemen (N & S), Oman. Tropical east Africa.

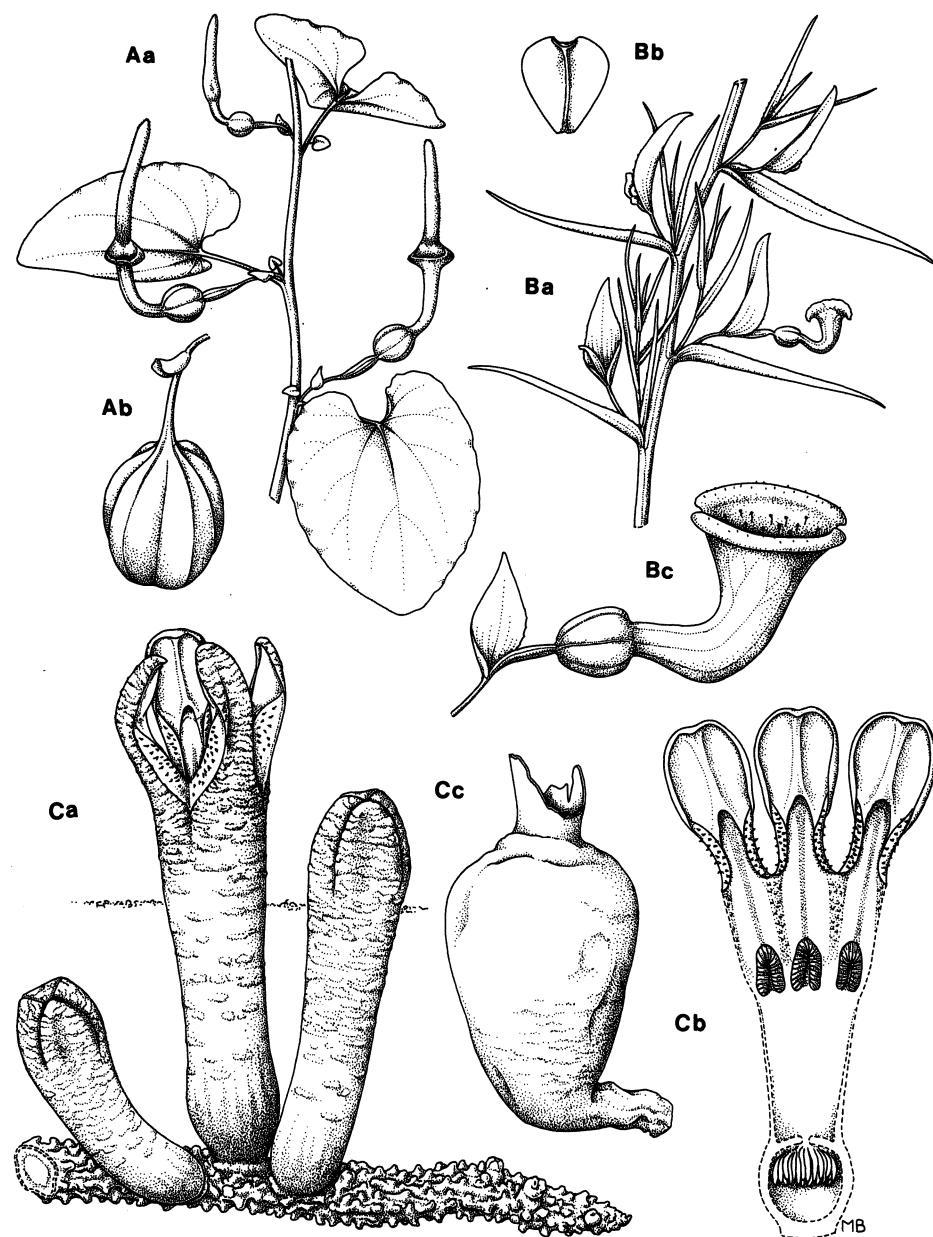
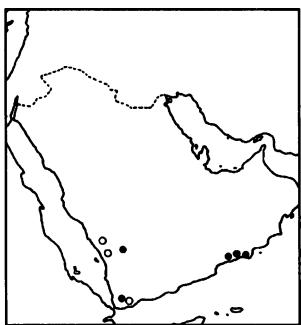


Fig. 62. Aristolochiaceae. A, *Aristolochia bracteolata*: Aa, flowering branch ($\times 1$); Ab, fruit ($\times 1$). B, *A. rigida*: Ba, part of flowering branch ($\times 1$); Bb, seed ($\times 2$); Bc, flower ($\times 1$). **Hydnoraceae.** C, *Hydnora johannis*: Ca, habit ($\times 0.5$); Cb, section through flower ($\times 0.5$); Cc, fruit ($\times 0.5$).

Distribution Maps



Map 444. *Hydnora johannis*