**CLUSIACEAE (GUTTIFERAE)** (St. John's Wort Family)

Plants annual orperennial herbs or shrubs (trees and lianas elsewhere), sometimes more or lessevergreen, sometimes with rhizomes, usually glabrous, the tissues with clear toyellowish to dark green or black resinous secretory cavities, these appearingas dots, lines, or streaks on stems, leaves, and often also floral parts.Leaves opposite, simple, sessile or short-petiolate. Leaf blades simple, themargins entire. Stipules absent. Inflorescences terminal and/or axillary,consisting of clusters of flowers, these often grouped into panicles, sometimesreduced to single flowers, the branch points and flowers often subtended bysmall, leaflike bracts. Flowers actinomorphic (except in a few Hypericum),perfect, hypogynous. Calyces of 4 or 5 free sepals, usually persistent atfruiting. Corollas of 4 or 5 free petals, these mostly spreading, sometimeswithered but persistent at fruiting. Stamens 5 to numerous, often in groups bybasal fusion of the filaments, the long, slender filaments occasionally fusedto the petal bases, sometimes fused into a short ring around the ovary base,the anthers attached toward the base or more or less medially, yellow oroccasionally orange. Staminodes absent (in Hypericum) or glandular (in Triadenum).Pistils of usually 2–5 fused carpels. Ovary superior, with 1–5locules, with axile (when 2–5-locular) or parietal (when 1-locular)placentation. Styles 1–5, persistent at fruiting, the stigmas capitateor minute. Ovules numerous. Fruits capsules, the body narrowly to broadly ovoidor nearly globose, usually tapered to a stylar beak(s), sometimes appearingsomewhat woody at maturity, dehiscing longitudinally. Forty-five to 50 genera,900–1,350 species, nearly worldwide.

Some authorshave treated the group of mostly temperate, herbaceous to shrubby species withperfect flowers, relatively short secretory cavities, glandular-punctateleaves, and seeds lacking arils as a separate family, Hypericaceae, restrictingthe Clusiaceae to a mostly tropical group of shrubs and trees with usuallyimperfect flowers, long secretory canals, leaves lacking glandular punctations,and seeds often enclosed in fleshy arils. Studies of comparative anatomy,especially of flower vascular patterns, have offered evidence that the entireset of genera is best treated as a single family (summarized by Wood and Adams,1976) comprising two or three subfamilies. There is general agreement, however,that Hypericum and Triadenum are closely related and form anatural group within this family.