

SILVA OF NORTH AMERICA.

PERSEA.

FLOWERS perfect; calyx 6-lobed, the lobes in two series, imbricated in æstivation, persistent; corolla 0; stamens 12, in four series, those of the inner series sterile; disk 0; ovary superior, 1-celled; ovule solitary, suspended. Fruit baccate. Leaves alternate, destitute of stipules, persistent.

Persea, Linnæus, *Gen.* 94 (1737). — Endlicher, *Gen.* 317. — Meisner, *Gen.* 325. — Baillon, *Hist. Pl.* ii. 469. — Benthum & Hooker, *Gen.* iii. 156 (excl. sees. *Alseodaphne*, *Phorbe*, and *Notaphobe*). — Pax, *Engler & Prantl Pflanzenfam.* iii. pt. ii. 114 (excl. see. *Alseodaphne*). — *Laurus*, Linnæus, *Gen.* ed. 2. 174 (in part) (1742). — A. L. de Jussieu, *Gen.* 80 (in part). — *Menestrata*, Vellozo, *Fl. Flum.* 139; *Icon.* v. t. 2 (1825). — *Tamala*, Rattansque, *Sylva Tellur.* 136 (1838).

Aromatic trees or shrubs, with naked buds. Leaves alternate, scattered, penniveined, subcoriaceous, rigid, tomentose or rarely glabrous, persistent. Flowers small, greenish yellow, apetalous, cymose or rarely subumbellate in axillary or axillary and terminal pedunculate panicles. Bracts and bractlets lanceolate, acute, caducous. Calyx campanulate, divided nearly to the base into six lobes, those of the outer series shorter than those of the inner series or sometimes nearly as long, persistent under the fruit. Stamens twelve, in four series, those of the inner series and sometimes also those of the third series reduced to staminodia; filaments flattened, inserted on the base of the calyx, longer or rarely shorter than the anthers, hirsute or glabrous, those of the third series furnished near the base with two sessile or rarely stipitate glands; anthers ovate, flattened, erect, innate, four-celled, the upper cells rather larger than the lower, or those of the third series sometimes two-celled, rarely all two-celled, the cells opening from below upward by persistent lids, those of the outer series introrse or subintrorse, those of the third series extrorse or laterally dehiscent; staminodia large, cordate-sagittate, stipitate, usually bearded at the apex; pollen simple, globose, granular. Ovary sessile, subglobose, glabrous or pilose, one-celled, narrowed into a slender simple elongated style, gradually enlarged at the apex into a discoid stigma; ovule solitary, suspended from the apex of the cell, anatropous. Fruit baccate, globose, oblong or rarely pyriform, more or less fleshy, surrounded at the base by the persistent calyx. Seed globose, pendulous, destitute of albumen; testa thin and membranaceous, separable into two coats. Embryo erect; cotyledons thick and fleshy; radicle superior, turned toward the hilum, included between the cotyledons.¹

¹ By Mez (*Jahrb. Königl. Bot. Gart. v. 135* [*Lauraceæ Americanae Monog.*]) *Persea* is divided into the following subgenera:—

HEMIPERSEA. Anthers of the three outer series of stamens two-celled.

HEXANTHERA. Anthers of the two outer series of stamens four-celled, those of the third series minute and sterile.

HETERANDRIA. Anthers of the two outer series of stamens four-celled, those of the third series two-celled.

ETIPERSEA. Anthers of the three outer series of stamens fertile, four-celled.