

"Caesalpinioideae"

The Caesalpinia Subfamily

171 genera

2,300 species



Distribution:

Mainly tropical and subtropical trees and shrubs.

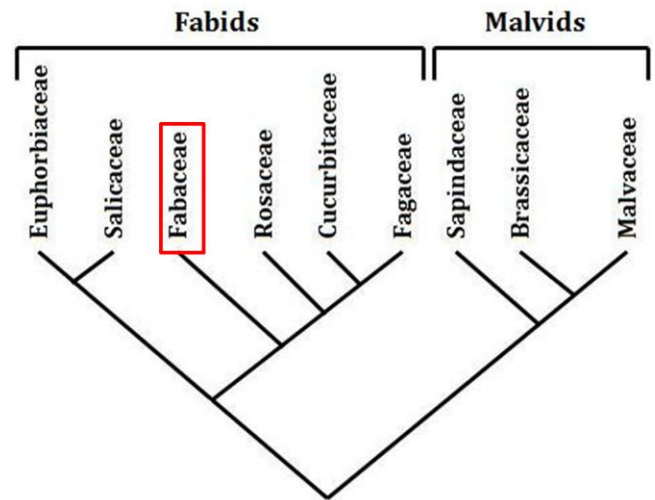
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Economic Uses:

- Several *Caesalpinia* species are sources of dyes and timber.
- The pods of the Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) are used as a fresh fruit and for medicinal purposes in India.
- The redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) is a common ornamental tree in temperate regions.

Rosids: Reduced Phylogeny of Required Families



Characteristic features:

- A paraphyletic group.
- Leaves usually once pinnately or twice pinnately compound, rarely simple.
- Nodulation is rare in this subfamily and, when it does occur, is primitive in structure.
- Flowers: ± weakly zygomorphic, upper petal (banner) innermost, petals distinct; 5 or 10 stamens, distinct.
- Pollen released as monads.

References for further inquiry:

- Doyle, J.J. & Luckow, M.A. The rest of the iceberg. Legume diversity and evolution in a phylogenetic context. *Plant Physiology* 131: 900-910 (2003).
- Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A., & Seberg, O. Leguminosae (Fabaceae). Pp. 185-188. In: *Flowering Plant Families of the World*. New York, Firefly Books (2007).