

# Rosaceae

## The Rose Family

95 genera

2,800 species



### Distribution:

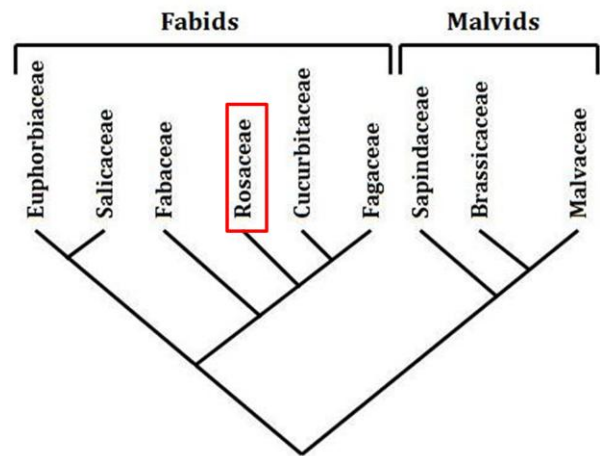
Family is worldwide but with maximum development in the temperate to subtropical zones of the northern hemisphere.

### Economic Uses:

- Most of the important bush and tree fruits of temperate regions are found in this family. Economically, the most important is the apple (*Malus*), now grown in numerous hybrid cultivars.
- *Prunus* is also an incredibly important genus, producing almonds, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches and plums.

- Other important rosaceous fruits include blackberries and raspberries (*Rubus*), pears (*Pyrus*), and strawberries (*Fragaria*).
- While many species in this family are cultivated as ornamentals, the most significant is the rose, which is probably the most popular and widely cultivated garden flower in the world. Modern roses are complex hybrids, descended from about 9 of the wild species.

### Rosids: Reduced Phylogeny of Required Families



### Characteristic features:

- Herbs, shrubs, or trees.
- Leaves alternate (often compound), stipules present.
- Flowers: showy, actinomorphic, prominent hypanthium and nectar disk; 5 sepals, 5 petals; stamens usually numerous; 1 to many carpels, apocarpous or syncarpous; ovary superior or inferior.
- Fruit: can be a follicle, achene, pome, drupe or associated with expanded receptacle. The family demonstrates a wide range of fruit evolution.

### References for further inquiry:

- Foltá, K.M. and Gardiner, S.E. (Eds). *Genetics and Genomics of Rosaceae*. New York, Springer (2009).
- Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A., & Seberg, O. Rosaceae. Pp. 280-283. In: *Flowering Plant Families of the World*. New York, Firefly Books (2007).