Hydrangeaceae  B.C.J. Dumortier  

Hydrangea Family  

(Kirengeshomaceae, Philadelphaceae)

This dicotyledonous family of trees shrubs and woody vines, also known as the Mock Orange Family, contains about 15 to 20 genera consisting of 200 to 250 species; the simple opposite leaves have serrated margins, which are occasionally lobed; inflorescences are cymose, but may appear to be corymbose or paniculate; individual flowers are radially symmetrical, actinomorphic, and may be in varying combinations of fertile or sterile flowers; the calyx and corolla is often five-lobed; flowers typically have eight or more stamens present, but a single, more or less, inferior ovary; fruits are dehiscent capsules, containing winged seeds or sometimes fleshy endosperms surrounding small seeds; the Hydrangeaceae is sometimes treated as a constituent of a broader interpretation of the Saxifragaceae; alternatively, some authorities treat subfamilies within the broader Hydrangeaceae as separate families, the Escalloniaceae, Grossulariaceae, or Parnassiaceae; the Hydrangeaceae is more distantly related to the Cornaceae and Loasaceae; important landscape genera in the Hydrangeaceae include the Hydrangea, Philadelphus, and Deutzia.