

General characters of the genus *Curcuma*

General characteristics of *Curcuma* species include fleshy and branched rhizomes. Roots often bearing ellipsoid tubers. Leaves are usually large and the leaf-sheaths can form a pseudo-stem. Inflorescence occurs either terminal on the leaf-shoot or on a separate shoot which is peduncle erect. Bracts are large, and joined to each other forming pouches at the base; the free ends of the bracts are more or less spreading, with each subtending a cincinnus of 2-10 flowers. The uppermost bracts are called "coma" and are usually longer than the rest, are differently coloured, and can be sterile. Bracteoles are membranous and enclosed the buds. Calyx are tubular, unequally toothed, and deeply divided along one side. Corolla-tube are more or less funnel-shaped. The lobes are unequal, and the dorsal slightly larger than the lateral ones. The staminodes are petaloid, elliptic, oblong or linear. Labellum has a thickened middle part and thinner lateral lobes which overlap the staminodes. Stamen has short and broad filament,

and apex constricted. The anther is versatile with or without spurs, and the anther-crest is usually small. The ovary is glabrous or hairy, and 3-lobed. Stylodes can be present. The capsule is ellipsoid, and seed are arillate.