

84. BALSAMINACEAE

Herbs erect, succulent, branched. Leaves opposite, alternate or somewhat whorled, simple, estipulate. Flowers irregular, perfect, large and showy, on axillary or terminal 1- to several-flowered peduncles; sepals 3, imbricate, posterior one large, petaloid, produced into a hollow sack or spur, 2 anterior ones small, green; petals 3 or 5, lateral ones 2-lobed; stamens 5; filaments short, broad; anthers cohering; disc none; ovaries oblong, 5-celled; stigmas sessile, 5-toothed; ovules many. Fruits loculicidal capsules, valves springing elastically away from axis; seeds smooth or tubercled, small.

Genera 3, species 410, in tropical Asia and Africa, few in temperate Europe, North America, etc.; 1 genus and 25 species in the Philippines.

1. **IMPATIENS** Linnaeus

Characteristics (Refer to family description).

1. *Impatiens balsamina* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 938, 1753; Merr., En. Philip. 2: 518, 1923. **Figure 98**

Herbs erect, succulent, branched. 1 m high or less. Leaves glabrous or pubescent, 3-5 cm long, narrowly lanceolate or oblanceolate, acuminate, deeply serrate, alternate; petioles glandular. Flowers axillary, showy, 2-3 cm long, usually pink but forms with white, red, purple and variegated petals; spur long, slender. Fruits pubescent.

Native of British India, throughout the Philippines, now cultivated in most warm and tropical countries; in Mt. Makiling, Luzon, cultivated as an ornamental.

Com. name – *Kamantigi* (Ilk., Pamp., Tag.).

Exsicc. – *Antonio CA 1737; Obligado CA 5081** (CAHP).



Figure 98. *Impatiens balsamina*: 1. fruiting and flowering branch; 2. portion of stem with stipule; 3. flower, 2 views; 4. flower, vertical section; 5. flower, perianth removed; 6. ovary, vertical section; 7. ovary, cross section; 8. fruit, undehiscent; 9. fruit, dehiscent; 10. seed.