

Coriandrum sativum L.

Standardized Common Name: Coriander

Other Common Name: Cilantro (leaf)

Family: Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)

Parts in Commerce: Fruits

Identification: See appendix for explanation of the technical terms pertaining to umbel fruits.

- Schizocarps globose or nearly so, with mericarps attached by broad commissure and rarely splitting
- (2–)2.5–4.5(–5.5) mm in diameter
- Yellowish brown to pale dull brown; unripe fruit may dry black
- Primary ribs delicate, undulating, inconspicuous, alternating with straight secondary ribs
- Apex bearing conical projecting beak (stylopodium), surrounded by 5 calyx teeth (often knocked off in bulk material, but usually visible as small tubercles)
- Mericarps, when separated, with deeply concave commissural face usually bearing 2 raised, riblike vittae
- Odor aromatic, mild when ripe; unripe fruit has unpleasant odor
- Taste characteristic, mild, spicy

Taxonomy: *Coriandrum* includes three species, all native to Southwest Asia. *Coriandrum sativum* has been widely cultivated for thousands of years.

Description: Annual herb. Stem to 70 cm high, branching. Leaves basal and cauline; basal leaves long-petioled, 1-pinnate or pinnatisect, the segments ca. 1 cm long and ovate, with crenate-serrate margins; stem leaves alternate, short-petioled, 2–3-pinnate, segments linear. Inflorescences compound umbels on long peduncles, 2–6(–10)-rayed, bractless or with 1 linear bract; umbels few-flowered, subtended by small bracteoles; flowers small, calyx teeth unequal, petals white to pinkish or purplish, outer petals spreading and bifid, anthers pink; both hermaphroditic and male flowers present, the latter borne on shorter pedicels. Fruit a schizocarp, globose, 2–5.5 mm in diameter, usually not separating into mericarps; primary and secondary ribs present, not conspicuous.

References:

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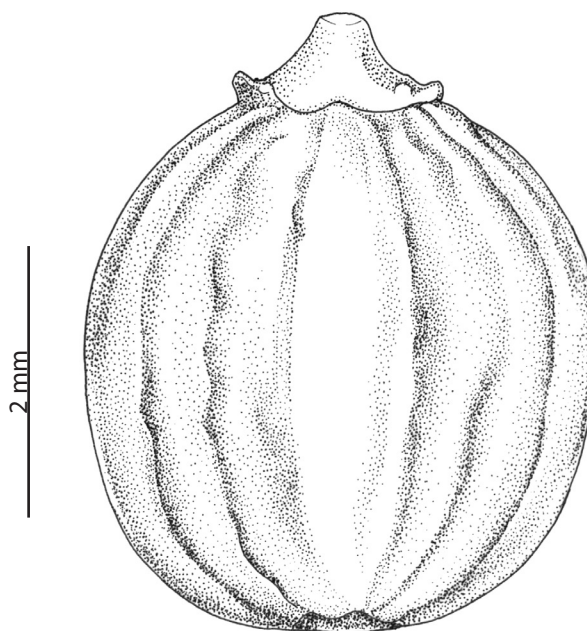


Figure 20: *Coriandrum sativum* fruit.