

***Malva* spp. (Malvaceae)**

Mericalp

Mericalps originally in the form of a schizocarp ring (1) and then may break apart (2).

General shape: round, flattened, semi circular

Normal size: 1 - 3mm in diameter

Color: reddish-brown, brown, grey

Texture: dull, smooth sometimes with hairs.

Distinguishing features: Lateral faces (smooth or radially striate) slope down to a ventral indentation, where enclosed seed can be partly seen (some species).

Seed

General shape: reniform, flattened, semi circular

Normal size: 1 - 3mm in diameter

Color: reddish-brown, brown, grey

Texture: dull, reticulate, sometimes covered with a fine film.

Distinguishing features: One side is thicker than the other. Presence of a lateral indentation, more or less deep, hosting the hilum, which is surrounded by a whitish area.

Embryo: curved with the cotyledons variously folded.

Fruit: schizocarp ring (1)



Mericalps (2)



Seeds

Mericalps and seeds of *Malva* spp.

Images by SNES-GEVES