**Lamiaceae**  
The Mint Family

252 genera  
6,800 species

**Distribution:**  
Cosmopolitan, ranging from tropical forests to arctic tundra and sea level to high altitudes. There is a main center of diversification in the Mediterranean region.

**Economic Uses:**  
- This family includes important tropical timber trees such as teak (*Tectona*).
- The subfamily Nepetoideae is well known for producing aromatic oils and it includes many herbs such as sage (*Salvia*), mint (*Mentha*), oregano (*Origanum*), thyme (*Thymus*), lavender (*Lavandula*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus*), and basil (*Ocimum*).
- Many ornamentals are also present in this family, including species of *Salvia*, *Phlomis*, *Monarda*, *Lamium* and others.

**Characteristic features:**  
- Herbs, shrubs, trees with opposite leaves (usually).
- Aromatic volatile compounds – mint oils.
- Stems square in herbaceous taxa.
- Inflorescences with main axis indeterminate and determinate (cymose) lateral axes, these often congested into pseudowhorls.
- Flowers: 3 connate sepals, calyx radial or bilateral; 5 connate petals, bilabiate; 4 stamens, didynamous to more or less equal; carpels 2, 2 ovules per carple, connate, styles terminal to an often gynobasic; superior, often deeply 4-lobed ovary.
- Fruit: a drupe w/ 1-4 pits, an indehiscent 4-seeded pod, or a schizocarp splitting into 4 nutlets or drupelets.

**Asterids:** Reduced Phylogeny of Required Families

**References for further inquiry:**  