

### Taxonomical Characteristics

The genus, *Corchorus*, belongs to the family, Tiliaceae. It includes about 40 species mostly distributed in the tropical regions. Fourteen of them including *C. capsularis* and *C. olitorius* are diploid ( $2n=14$ ) and four are tetraploid ( $2n=28$ ). *C. capsularis* and *C. olitorius* are both herbaceous annuals. The vegetative period of both is about 3-5 months. At the harvest stage varieties of *C. capsularis* attain a height of about 5-12 feet and those of *C. olitorius* 5-15 feet or more. The stems of both are cylindrical. Leaves are glabrous. Flowers of both the species look yellow, are small in size and occur in condensed cymes. (Sarma.M.S. 1969). Flowers occur in the axel of leaves, and composed of 4-5 sepals and petals, 5 to numerous stamens. Ovary is 2-6 locular. Seeds are small and numerous (Khan M.S. 1988). Seeds of *C. olitorius* are smaller. *C. capsularis* seed is coppery in colour and weigh about 500-600 seed per 1 gram. *C. olitorius* seed is greyish in colour and weigh about 1000 seeds per 1 gram. Both the species are mostly self pollinated.

Both *H. cannabinus* and *H. Sabdariffa* var *altissima* are annuals. Their vegetative periods are about 5-8 months. Both have straight stems, grow upto about 4 metres in height and belong to the family, Malvaceae. The leaves of *H. cannabinus* are alternate with petioles. The upper leaves are deeply palmately lobed. The sepals are with dark glands in the back. The capsules are globose and pointed. Seeds are many and glabrous. The leaves of *H. Sabdariffa* var. *altissima* are entire or 3-5 lobed, middle lobe longest and polymorphous. Flowers are big and yellow in colour. There are about 8-12 bractioles (epicalyx). Capsules are ovoid and pointed The seeds are many and uniform. (Khan, M.S. 1988)