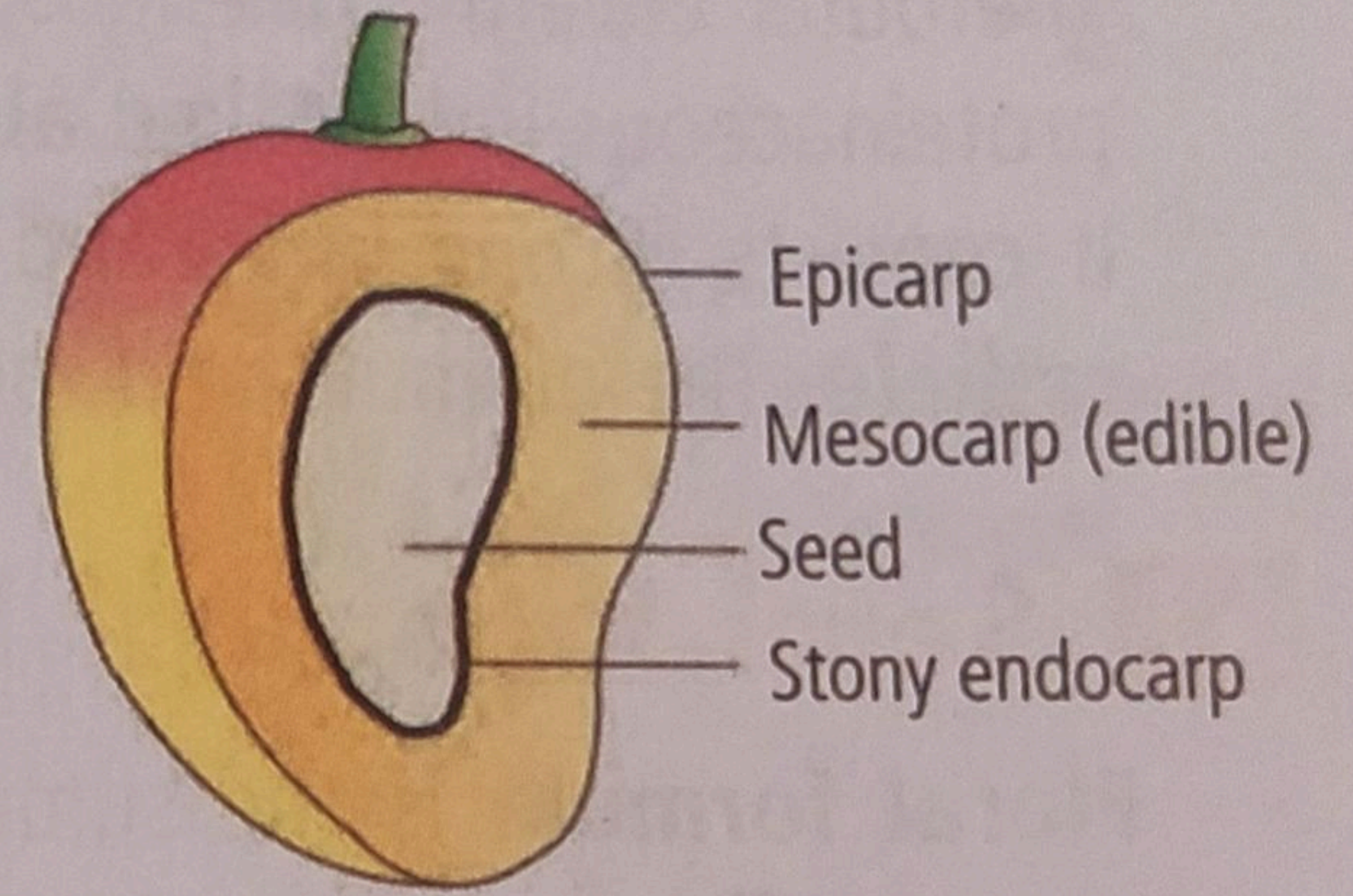


## 5.6 The Fruit

- ▶ The fruit is a mature or ripened ovary, developed after fertilisation and characteristic feature of the flowering plants. If a fruit is formed without fertilisation of the ovary, it is called a **parthenocarpic** fruit, *e.g.*, banana. Generally, the fruit consists of a wall or **pericarp** and seeds. The pericarp may be dry or fleshy. When pericarp is thick and fleshy, it is differentiated into the outer **epicarp**, the middle **mesocarp** and the inner **endocarp**.
- ▶ In mango and coconut, the fruit is known as a **drupe**. They develop from monocarpellary superior ovaries and are one seeded. In mango the pericarp is well differentiated into an outer thin epicarp, a middle fleshy edible mesocarp and an inner stony hard endocarp. In coconut, the mesocarp is fibrous.
- ▶ Fruits can be classified as:
  - (i) **Simple fruits** : Develop from mono or multicarpellary, syncarpous ovary. They can be classified into dry and fleshy.
    - **Dry fruits** are further classified into : (a) **Dehiscent** : **Pod** (*e.g.*, Pea), **Follicle** (*e.g.*, *Delphinium*), **Siliqua** (*e.g.*, Mustard), **Silicula** (*e.g.*, *Iberis*), **Capsule** (*e.g.*, Cotton). (b) **Indehiscent** : **Cypsela** (*e.g.*, Marigold), **Caryopsis** (*e.g.*, Maize), **Achene** (*e.g.*, *Mirabilis*), **Samara** (*e.g.*, *Holoptelia*), **Nut** (*e.g.*, *Litchi*). (c) **Schizocarpic** : **Lomentum** (*e.g.*, *Acacia*), **Cremocarp** (*e.g.*, Coriander), **Double samara** (*e.g.*, *Acer*), **Regma** (*e.g.*, *Ricinus*).



**Fig.:** Drupe of mango (L.S.)

- **Fleshy fruits** are **Drupe** (*e.g.*, Mango), **Berry** (*e.g.*, Tomato), **Pepo** (*e.g.*, Cucurbits), **Pome** (*e.g.*, Pear), **Hesperidium** (*e.g.*, Orange), **Balausta** (*e.g.*, Pomegranate).
- (ii) **Aggregate fruits** : Develop from multicarpellary apocarpous ovary. Types of aggregate fruits are **Etaerio of achenes** (*e.g.*, *Ranunculus*), **Etaerio of follicles** (*e.g.*, *Michelia*), **Etaerio of drupes** (*e.g.*, Raspberry), **Etaerio of berries** (*e.g.*, Custard apple).
- (iii) **Composite fruits** : Develop from complete inflorescence and include **Sorosis** (*e.g.*, Pineapple) and **Syconus** (*e.g.*, Banyan).