
Inflorescence

Objectives

- Identify the meaning of inflorescence.
- Distinguish the type of flower through its structure

Inflorescence

- The complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers.

3 Types of Inflorescence

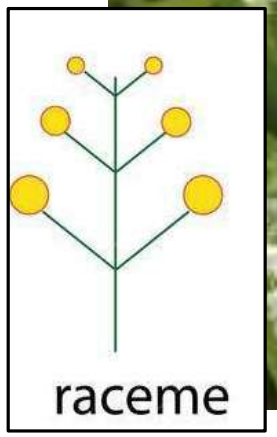
- Racemose Inflorescence (Indefinite)
- Cymose Inflorescence (Definite)
- Special Inflorescence

Racemose Inflorescence

1. Raceme
2. Spike
3. Catkin
4. Spadix
5. Corymb
6. Umbel
7. Head or Capitulum
8. Panicle

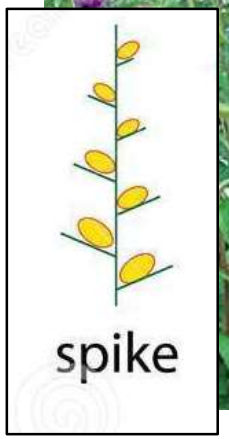
Raceme

The flowers are borne on short pedicels lying along a common axis.



Spike

A spike is an unbranched, indeterminate inflorescence, similar to a raceme, but bearing sessile flowers.



Catkin

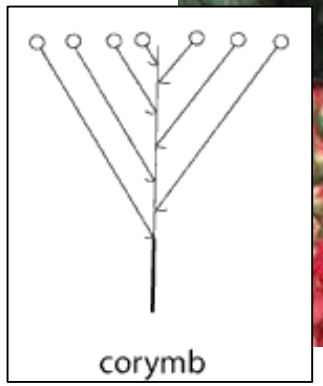
A catkin or ament is a slim, cylindrical flower cluster, with inconspicuous or no petals.

Spadix

It is a type of spike inflorescence having small flowers borne on a fleshy stem.

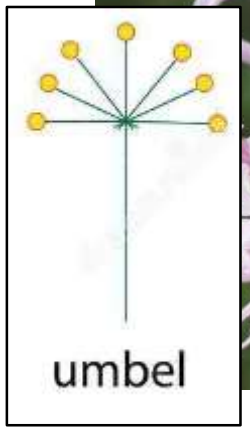
Corymb

All the flowers are at the same level, with flower stalks of different lengths, forming a flat-topped flower cluster.



Umbel

All the flower stalks are of the same length, so that the flower head is rounded like an umbrella.



Capitulum

It is composed of many separate unstalked flowers close together.

Panicle

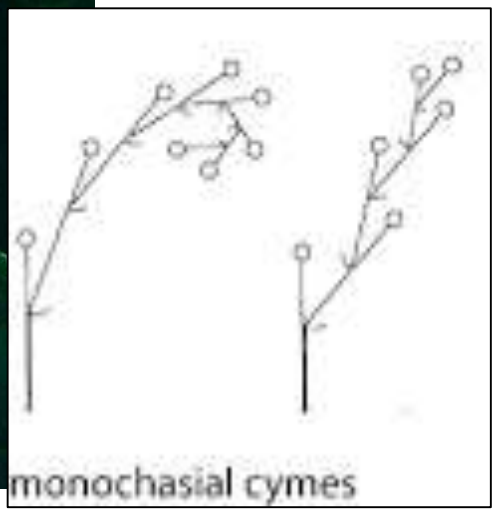
The main axis of the flower is branched and the lateral branches bear the stalked flowers.

Cymose

1. Monochasial Cyme
2. Dichasial Cyme
3. Polychasial Cyme

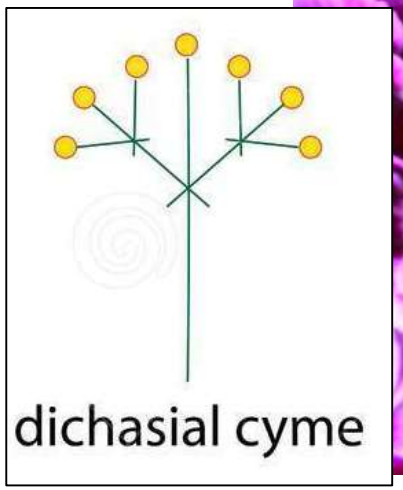
Monochasial Cyme

The terminal bud of main axis ends in flower. A single lateral branch pushes it to one side but also itself ends in a flower. The process is repeated. The peduncle is formed by the fusion of bases of axillary branches and the main axis. It is, therefore, sympodial.



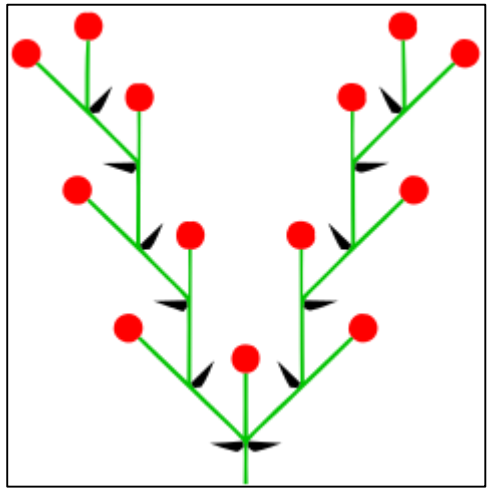
Dichasial Cyme

A terminal flower is subtended by two lateral branches which also end in flowers. The process is repeated. Inflorescence axis is multipodial.



Polychasial Cyme

More than two lateral branches continue the growth of the inflorescence when the parent axis ends in a flower. Polychasial cyme generally occurs in the primary divisions. The later divisions often become dichasial followed by monochasial ones. As in biparous cyme, the inflorescence axis is multipodial

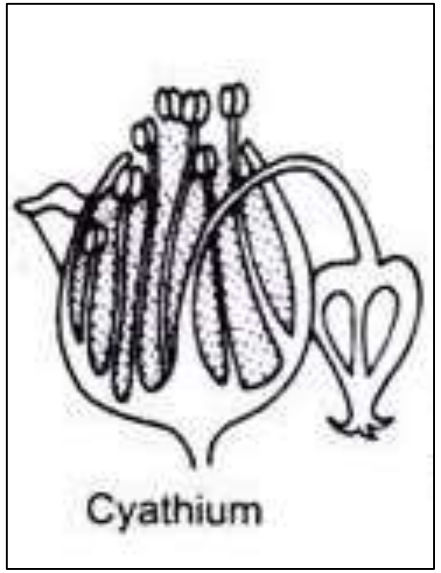


Special Inflorescence

1. Cyathium
2. Verticillaster
3. Hypanthodium

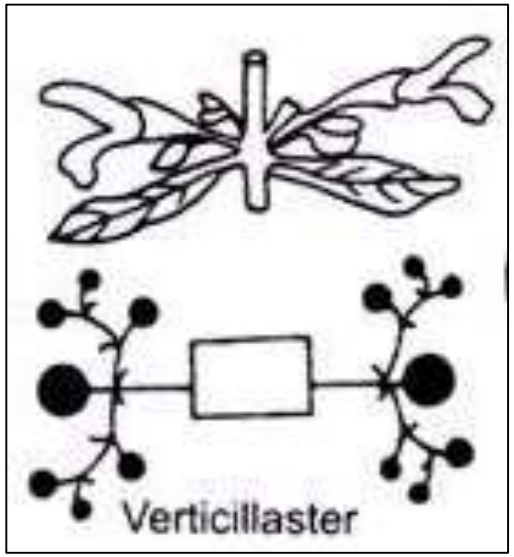
Cyathium

An inflorescence consisting of a cup-shaped involucre enclosing an apetalous, pistillate flower surrounded by several staminate flowers.



Verticillaster

A Verticillaster is a whorled inflorescence, where the flowers are borne in rings at intervals up the stem. The tip continues to grow, producing more whorls.



Hypanthodium

An inflorescence with flowers borne on the walls of capitulum, as in Ficus.