

## Family Description

Family - Ranunculaceae (Crowfoot family)

The typical example of the members of the family - Ranunculaceae is Ranunculus sceleratus Linn. and is abundantly distributed throughout the area in wet-ground. The characteristic features of the family are as follows -

Distribution - Punjab and Bengal plains and warm valley of Himalayas upto 5000 ft.

Habit - Annual Herb.

Root - Tap, branched

Stem - Erect, herbaceous, green, glabrous, solid, branched aerial with nodes and internodes.

Leaf - Simple, petiolate, radical with long petiole, tripartite or trilobed. Each lobe is further divided into ovate, cuneate segment, stipulate membranous stipules fused with leaf base, venation reticulate.

Inflorescence - cymose, dichasial cyme

Flower - Pedicellate, bracteate, bracteolate, hermaphrodite, complete, spirally, actinomorphic, pentamerous, yellow, hypogynous, stamens prominent and convex.

Calyx - 5-sepals, free, imbricate, Petaloid.

Corolla - Petals 3-5, or more petals, Free, imbricate, sometimes petals may be absent. Sometimes petals are changed to nectaries.

Stamen - Stamens are numerous, Free, spirally arranged, basifixed.

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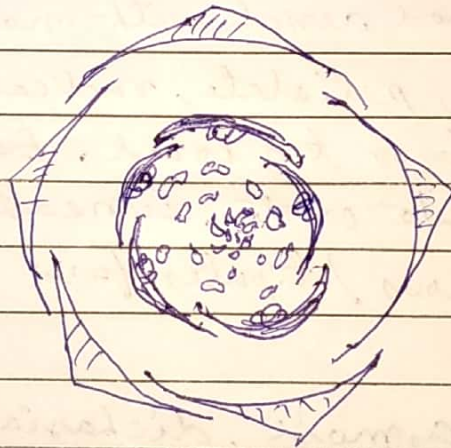
Carpel - Numerous Carpel, polycarpellary, ovary simple, apocarpous, one to several ovule in each ovary. Placentation basal or marginal.

Fruit - An etaerio of achene or follicles, sometimes berry or capsule.

Seed - Endospermic

Floral Formula -  $\text{Br} \cdot \text{Br} \cdot \text{⊕} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{K5L5A} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{G} \end{matrix}$   
(Ranunculus)

Floral diagram:-



### Important Species

1. *Ranunculus muricatus* (Buttercup)
2. *Delphinium ajacis* (Lark spurt)
3. *Ranunculus muricatus* (a weed)
4. *Aconitum yuccinalum* - (a wild herb).



## Economic importance -

1. Ornamentals - Most plants cultivated for their beauty.  
Ex - Buttercup.
2. Medicinal - Aconitum, Thalictrum yields Mamma.  
Yield alkaloid aconitine. ophthalmic use.
3. Condiments - Some members are used as condiments.  
For example - Seeds of Nigella. It is also used as drug.
4. Weeds - Some members are weeds like R. antirrhoeus.
5. Importance of honey - Most members of the family have nectaries.
6. Poisonous - Some members of this family produce a acid juice. It is highly poisonous.

## Systematic position -

Division - Spermatophyta

Subdiv - Angiospermae

Class - Dicotyledon

Series - Thalamiflorae

Order - Ranales

Family - Ranunculaceae

## Identification

- 1) Reticulate venation - Dicotyledon
- 2) Petals free - Polypetalae
- 3) Flower hypogynous - Thalamiflorae
- 4) Stamens usually many.
- 5) Gynoecium apocarpous, Carpels usually many - Ranals.
- 6) Sepals deciduous, usually petaloid, Stamens indefinite, exserted, usually herbs with alternate and dissected leaves - Ranunculaceae.