

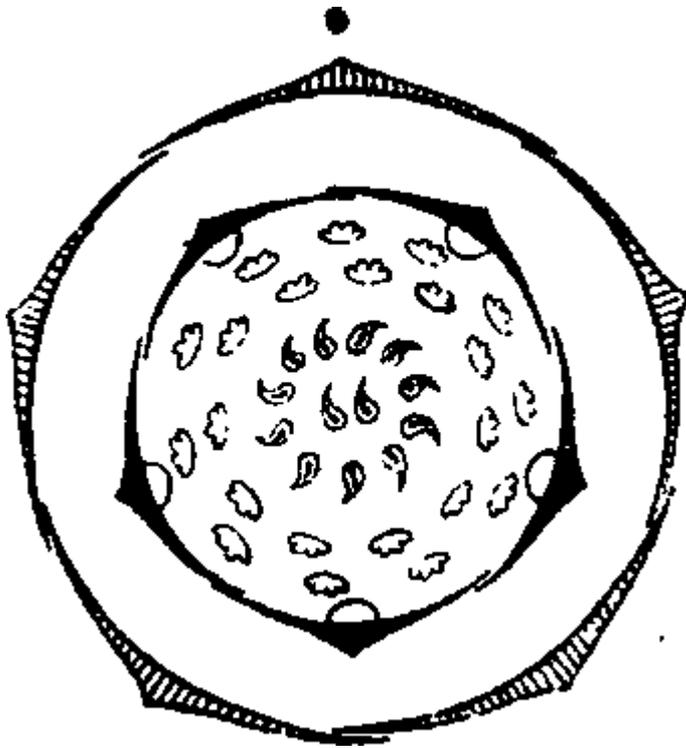
Ranunculaceae family floral formula , characters & importance.

Ranunculaceae family

Diagnostic characters

1. **I. Habits:** Annual or perennial herbs
2. **Roots:** Tuberos root
3. **Stem:** Herbaceous stem, develops rhizome
4. **Leaves:** Petiolate. Alternate rarely opposite. simple or compound, exstipulate, reticulate venation.
5. **Inflorescence:** Cymose. sometimes raceme
6. **Flower:** Pedicellate. ebracteate. actinomorphic, Regular. complete. hermaphrodite: hypogynous
7. **Calyx:** 5 sepals, free, imbricate, petaloid.
8. **Corolla:** 3-5 or more petals. Free. imbricate, sometimes petals may be absent. Sometimes, petals are changed into **nectaries**.
9. **Stamens:** Stamens are numerous, free. spirally arranged, basifixed.
10. **Carpel:** . Numerous carpels. polycarpellary: ovary simple. apocarpous, one to several ovules in each ovary. placentation basal or marginal.
11. **Fruits:** An etaerio or achenes or follicles, sometimes berry or capsule.
12. **Seed:** Endospermic seed

Floral formula and floral diagram



Floral Diagram

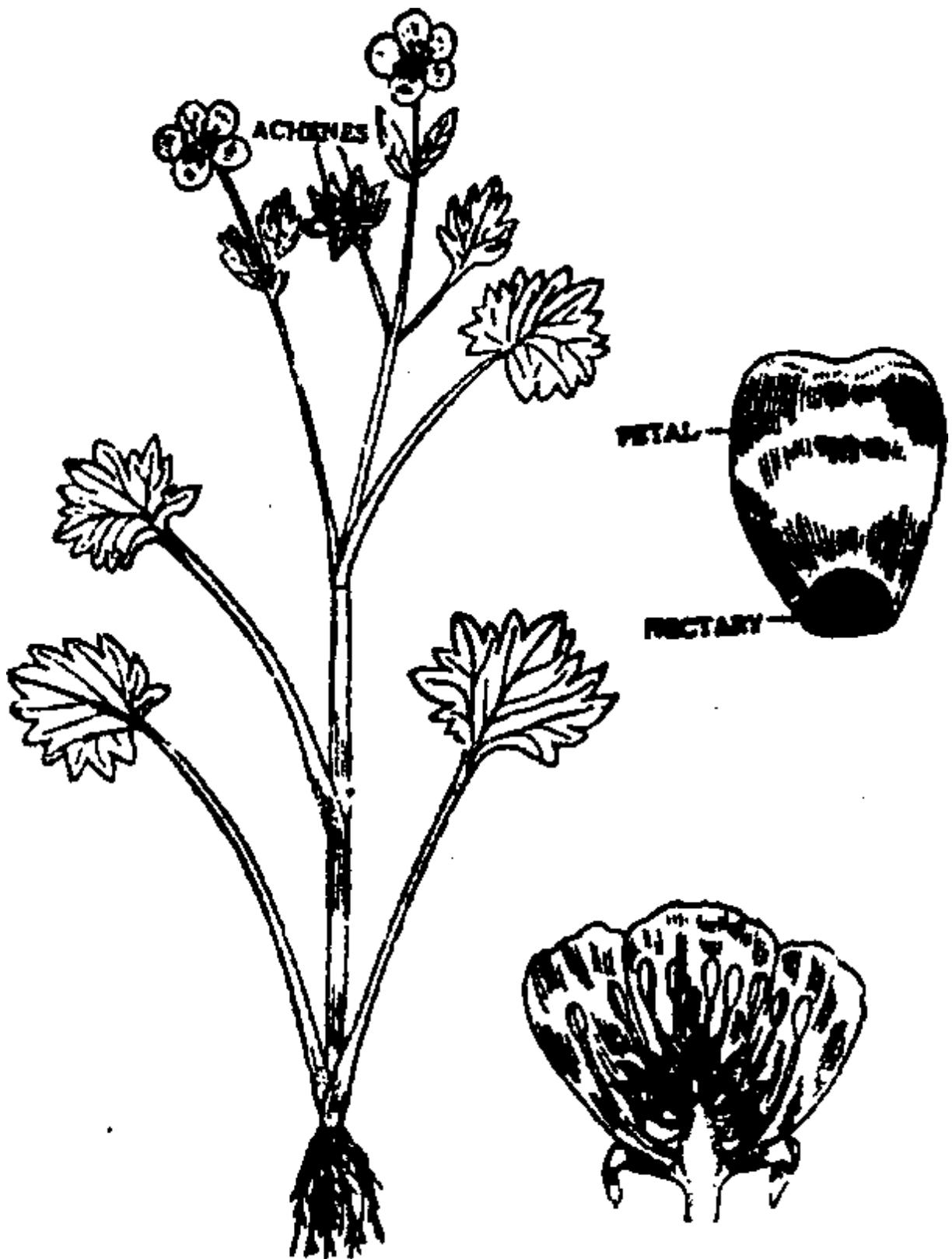


Fig: Plant and flower of Ranunculus muricatus
Economic importance

1. **I. Ornamental plants:** Most plants are cultivated for their beautiful flowers like Buttercup etc.
2. **Medicinal plants:** Some members are used as medicinal plants. *Aconitum* yields an alkaloid **aconitina**. *Thallictirom* yields **mamira**. It is used in the treatment of ophthalmia.
3. **Condiments:** Some members are used as condiments. For example, seeds of *Nigella* It **is** also used as drugs.
4. **Weeds:** Some members are needs like *R. antriccaus*.
5. **Importance** of honey: Most members of this family have nectaries. F lic nectaries have great importance for honey bees.
6. **Poisonous** species: Some members of this family produce acrid juice. It is highly poisonous.

Distribution pattern

It is a large family. It has 20 genera and 1200 species. It is mostly distributed in colder regions. Its members are vastly found in I limalayan region of Pakistan and India.

Important Species

1. *Ranunculus muricatus*. Butter cup
2. *Delphinium ajacis*, Larkspur
3. *Ranunculus muricatus* (a weed)
4. *Aconitum uncinatum* (a wild herb)