

How to describe a flowering plant

In describing a particular plant the following course is normally adopted:-

- 1. Habitat** :-the usual place of occurrence.
- 2. Habit:-herb**, shrub or trees.
- 3. Root:-type** adventitious or modified.
- 4. Stem:-erect** or weak. If weak mention modification, branching, texture, form, surface, colour.
- 5. Leaf:-**whether radical or cauline, phyllotaxy simple or compound, stipulate or exstipulate, if stipulate describe kind of stipule stipule, stalked or sessile; simple or compound; form of lamina, venation, incision of lamina, margin of lamina, Apex of leaf, surface, texture.
- 6. Inflorescence:-simple, mixed** or compound racemose or cymose. if racemose describe kind. if cymose uni, bi or multiparous. If special describe kind -verticillaster, cyathium etc.
- 7. Flower** :- Pedicellate or sessile, bracteate or ebracteate, complete or incomplete, bisexual or unisexual symmetry, regular or irregular, insertion of whorls (hypo, peri or epigynous). colour with or without nectar or any other special adaptation.
- 8. Calyx:-number** of sepals free or united, deciduous or persistent, form of calyx green or petaloid inferior or superior.

- 9. Corolla:-number** of petals Petaloid or sepaloid free or United (describe form), special form if any.
- 10. Androecium:-number** of stamens free or fused (give form) epi or antipetalous etc. Filament fixation of anther, dehiscence.
- 11. Gynoecium:-number** of carpels free or United, superior or inferior, number of locules, placentation, number of ovules in each locule, style, stigma (*simple, lobed*, hairy or feathery).
- 12. Fruit:-simple** or aggregate dry or succulent, describe kind of fruit.
- 13. Seed:-single** or two cotyledon, endospermic or non endospermic special adaptation example winged, feathery, hairy etc.
- 14. Floral formula**, floral diagram, vertical section of flower, vertical section of ovary.
- 15. Economic importance:-domestic**, commercial, medicinal etc.