

Topic: Poaceae

B.Sc. Botany Hons. II

Paper: III Group: B

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Vidyarthi

Department of Botany

Dr. L.K.V.D. College, Tajpur, Samastipur

L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga

Poaceae

Class Liliopsida – Monocotyledons

Subclass Commelinidae

Order Cyperales

Family Poaceae – Grass family

Characters of Poaceae:

Mostly herbs, stem jointed, fistular, cylindrical; leaves simple, alternate, sheathing, sheath open, ligulate; inflorescence compound spike; flowers zygomorphic, hypogynous, protected by palea; perianth represented by 2 or 3 minute scales (lodicules); stamens 3, versatile; carpel one, style 2 or 3, stigmas feathery, basal placentation; fruit caryopsis; testa fused with pericarp.


A. Vegetative characters:

Habit: Herbs, annuals or perennials or shrubs, sometimes tree like (Bambusa, Dendrocalamus).

Root: Adventitious, fibrous, branched, fascicled or stilt (Zea mays).

Stem:

Underground rhizome in all perennial grasses, cylindrical, culm with conspicuous nodes and internodes, internodes hollow, herbaceous or woody, glabrous or glaucous, vegetative shoots are arising from the base of aerial stem or from underground stems are called tillers.



Leaves: Alternate, simple, distichous, exstipulate, sessile, ligulate (absent in *Echinochloa*), leaf base forming tubular sheath, sheath open, surrounding internode incompletely, ligule is present at the junction of the lamina and sheath, entire, hairy or rough, linear, parallel venation.