

# Topic: Poaceae

B.Sc. Botany Hons. II

Paper: III Group: B

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## **B. Floral characters:**

### **Inflorescence:**

Compound spike which may be sessile or stalked. Each unit of inflorescence is spikelet. The spikelets are arranged in various ways on the main axis called rachilla. A compound inflorescence may be spike of spikelets (*Triticum*), panicle of spikelets (*Avena*).

The spikelet consists of a short axis called rachilla on which 1 to many sessile or short stalked flowers are borne. The florets may be



arranged in alternate or opposite manner on the central axis.

At the base of rachilla two sterile scales, called glumes, are present.

The glumes are placed one above the other on opposite sides. The

lower one is called first glume and the upper is called second glume.

Both the glumes are boat shaped and sterile. Above the glumes a

series of florets are present. Each floret has an inferior palea or

lemma and above it a superior palea. The lemma frequently bears a

long, stiff hair called awn.