

Topic: Polygonaceae

B.Sc. Botany Hons. II

Paper: III Group: B

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Polygonaceae


B. Floral characters:

Inflorescence:

Variable compound, the general plan usually is racemose but may also be a spike or a panicle; the individual bunches may be built on cymose pattern. Erigonum, which is non-ochreate, has its flowers in cymose umbels or heads.

Flower:

Small, open, crowded on the inflorescence; parts arranged in 4 or 5 whorls; trimerous, rarely dimerous as in *Oxyria digyna*; bisexual,



rarely unisexual than monoecious or dioecious; cyclic or acyclic, actinomorphic, hypogynous; honey secreted in large amount.

Perianth:

Tepals 3 to 6 in two indistinguishable whorls (= homochlamydeous). According to Laubengayer (1937) the trimerous whorled plan is fundamental, the apparent spiral plan is fundamentally whorled as can be seen anatomically; when 5 tepals are present, the fusion of one of the outer tepals with one inner has occurred; tepals usually pink, green or white and often persistent.