

The first step in acquiring knowledge is knowing the names of things



FEATURES OF FLOWERS USED IN PLANT CLASSIFICATION

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Nathaniel Lord Britton Curator of Botany

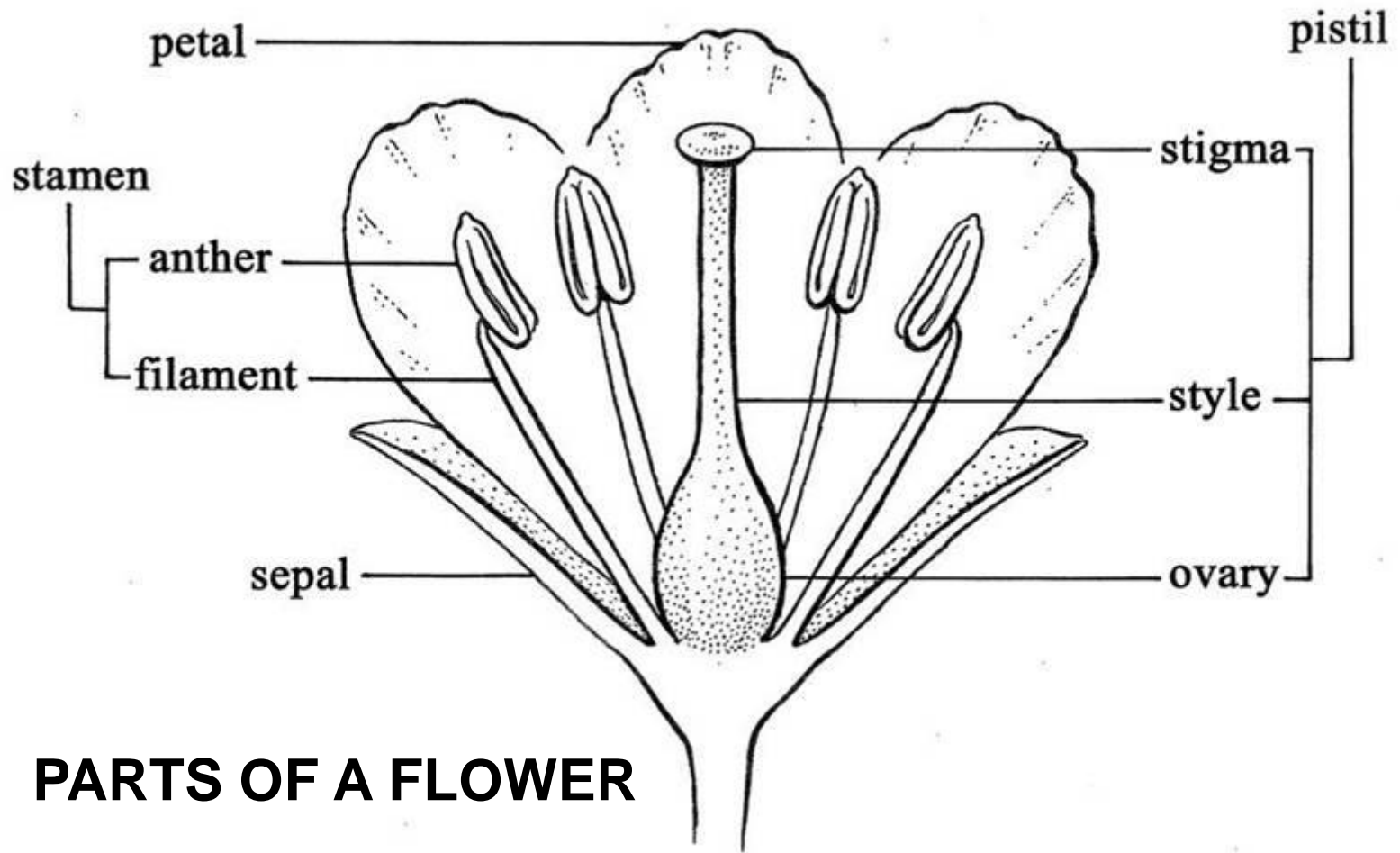
**IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY PLANTS,
ONE NEEDS TO KNOW BOTANICAL TERMINOLOGY
FOR PLANT GROWTH FORMS,
LEAVES, FLOWERS, AND FRUITS.**

**THE FOLLOWING IMAGES GIVE AN OVERVIEW
OF FLOWER TERMINOLOGY.**

**FOR MORE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS
CLICK ON “GLOSSARY” IN THE BANNER.**

**THE MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION DISPLAYED
BY THE PLANTS OF SABA IS ASTONISHING,
BUT ONE NEEDS TO OBSERVE CAREFULLY TO
SEE AND UNDERSTAND THAT VARIATION.**

**AN IMPORTANT AID FOR SEEING
BOTANICAL FEATURES USED IN
PLANT IDENTIFICATION IS A
GOOD QUALITY 10X HAND LENS.**



PARTS OF A FLOWER

FLORAL SYMMETRY

ACTINOMORPHIC



Marila racemosa (Clusiaceae)

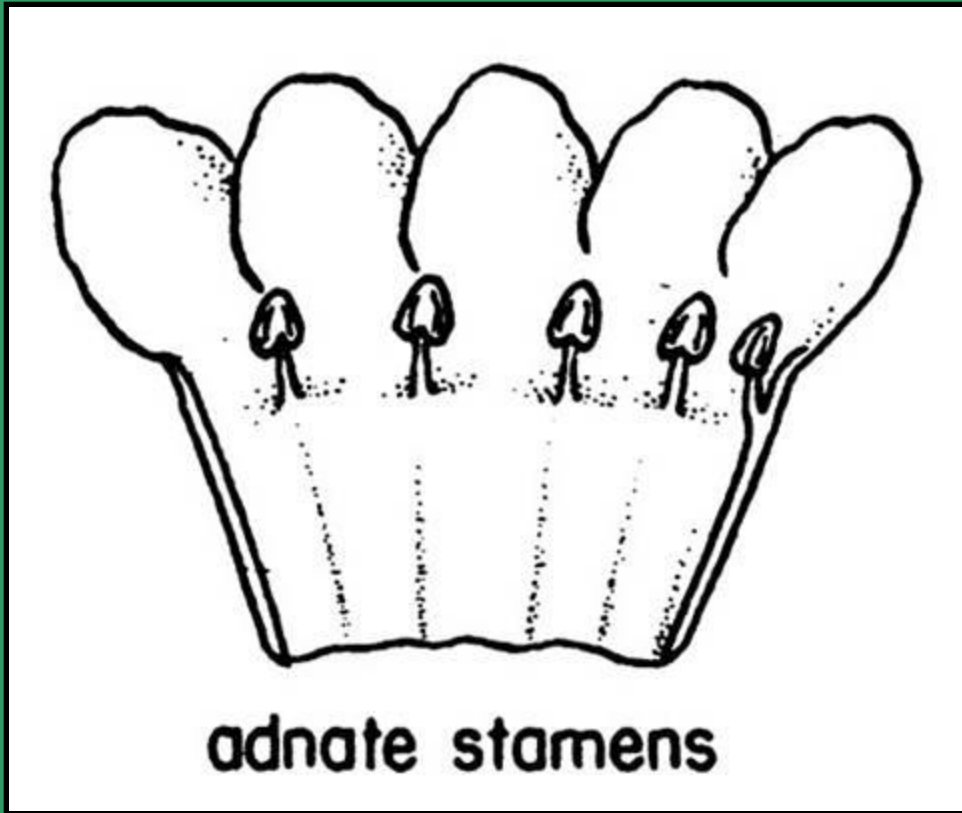
ZYGOMORPHIC



Centrosema virginiana – blue bell
(Fabaceae)

Corolla gamopetalous (=sympetalous)

black-eyed Susan

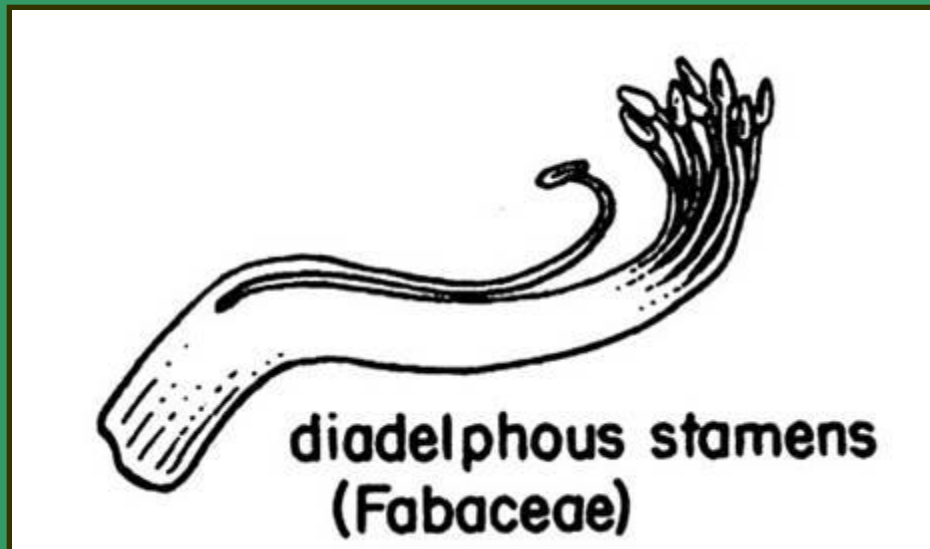
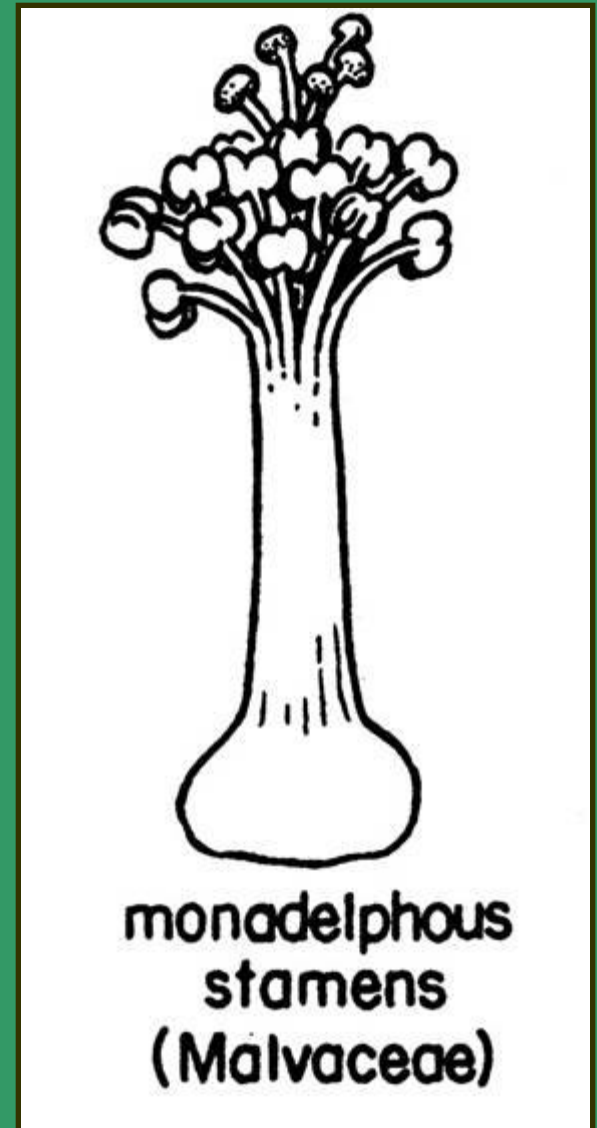
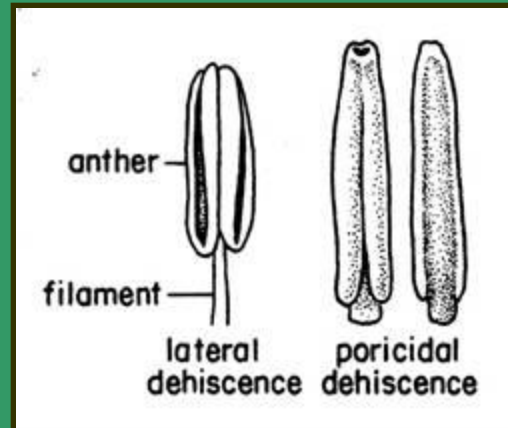
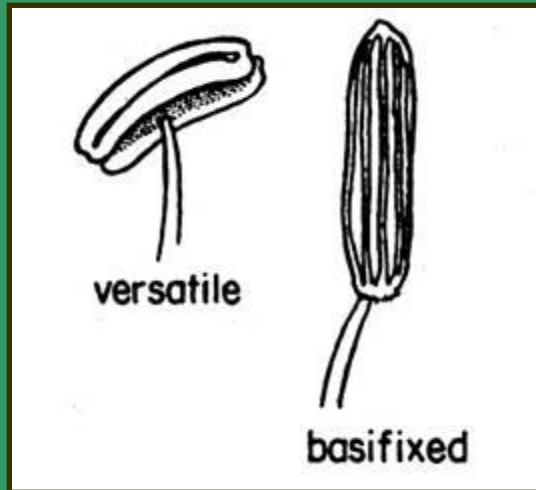


Drawing by B. Angell

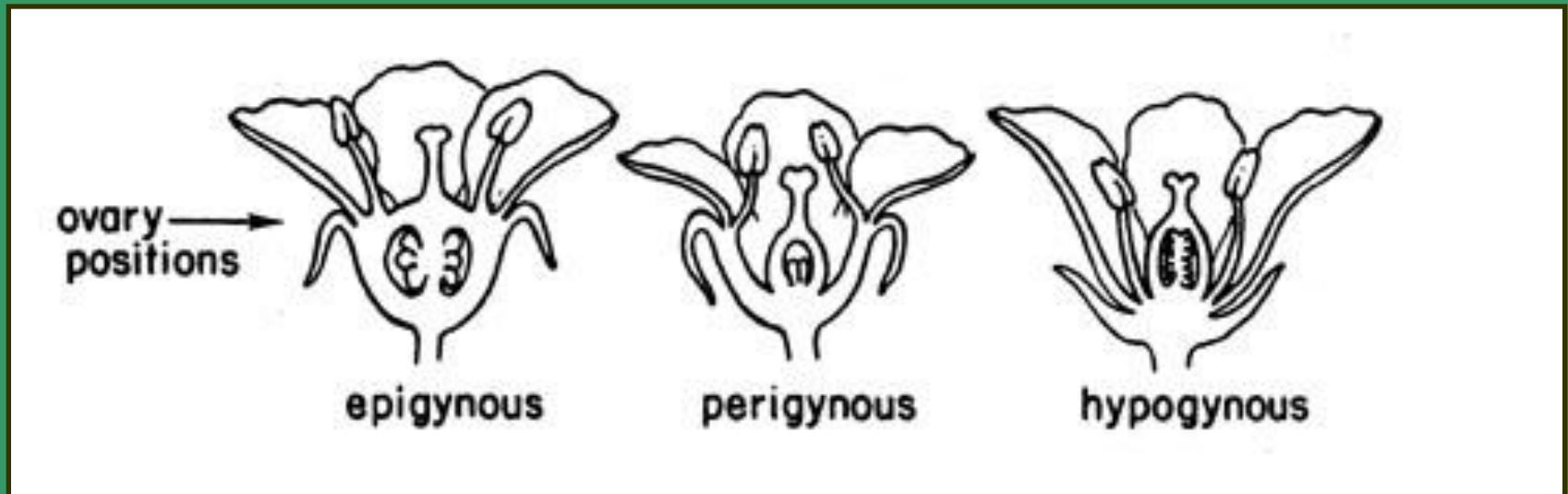


Photo by C. Gracie

ANDROECIAL CHARACTERS USED IN CLASSIFICATION



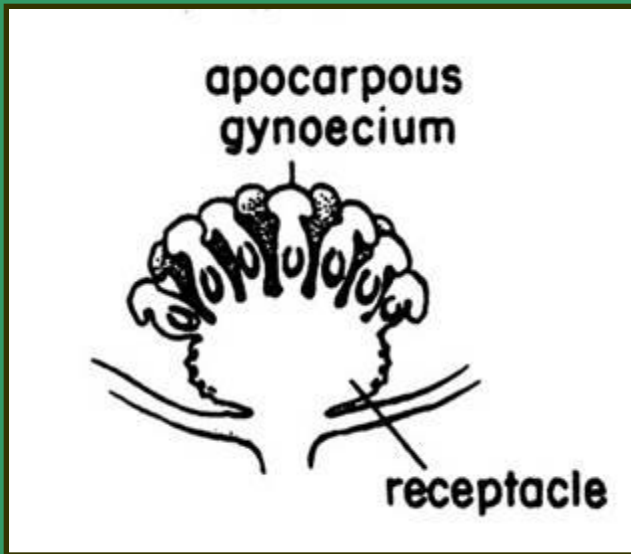
OVARY POSITION



INFERIOR OVARY = EPIGYNOUS

SUPERIOR OVARY = PERIGYNOUS OR HYPOGYNOUS

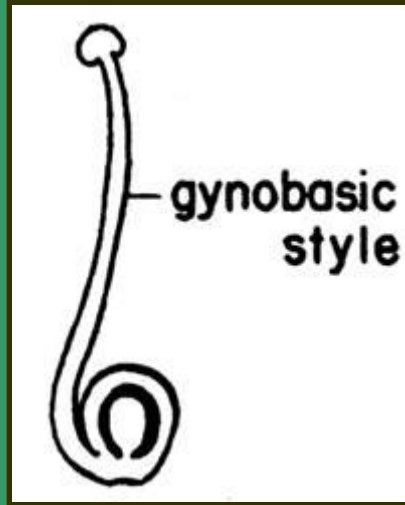
APOCARPOUS GYNOECIUM



Annona montana – soursop
(Annonaceae)

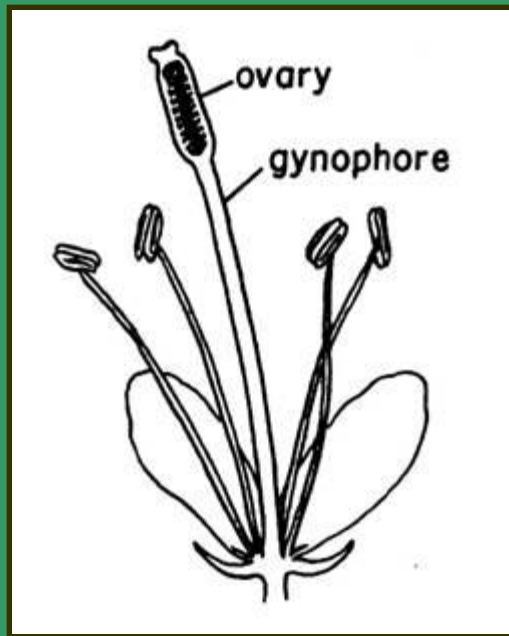


hairy plum *Hirtella triandra*

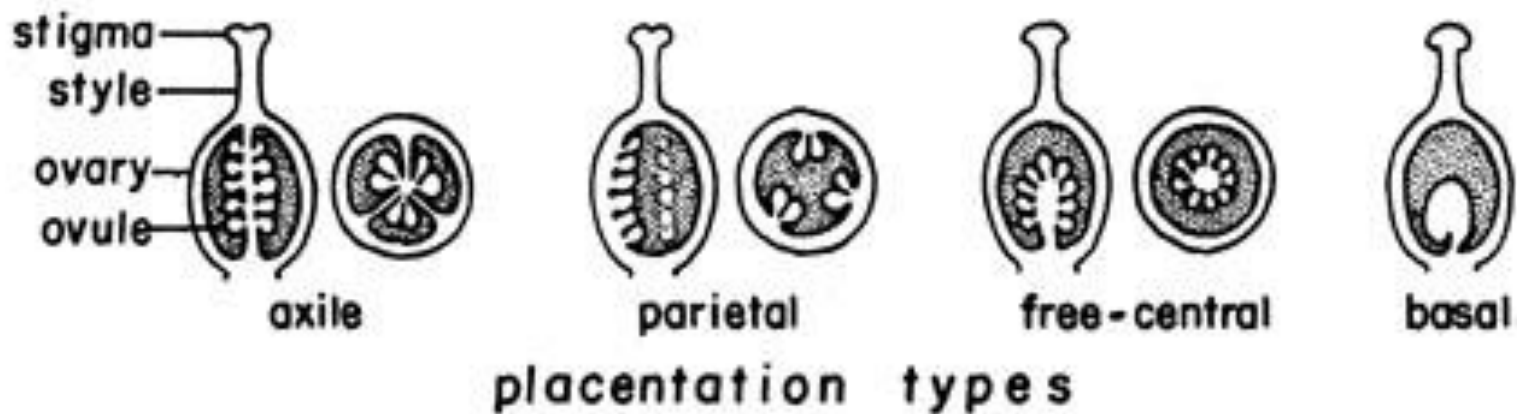


SPECIAL GYNOECIAL CHARACTERS

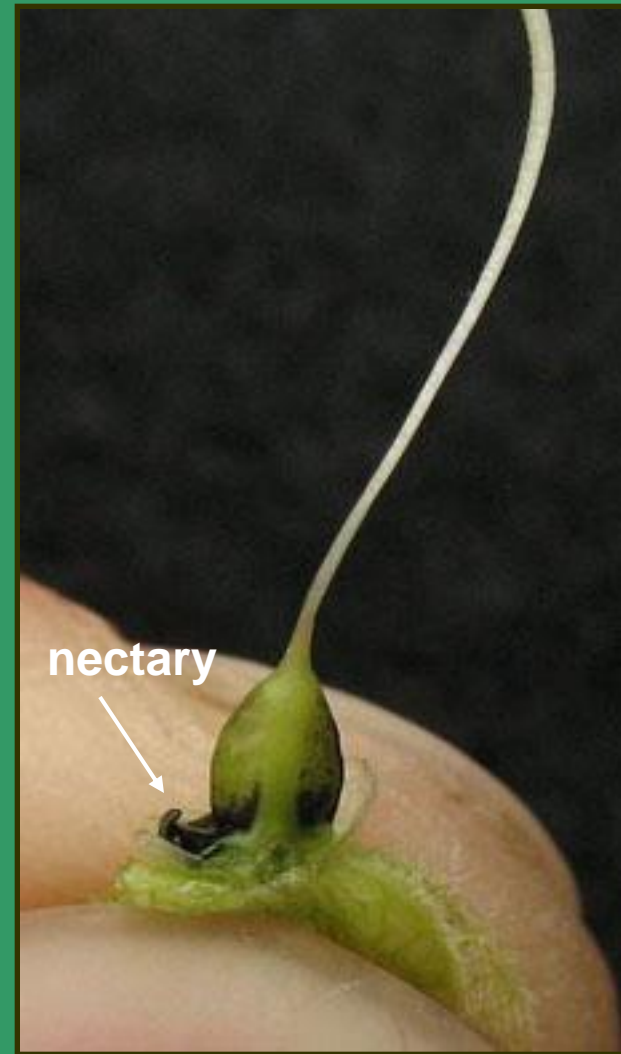
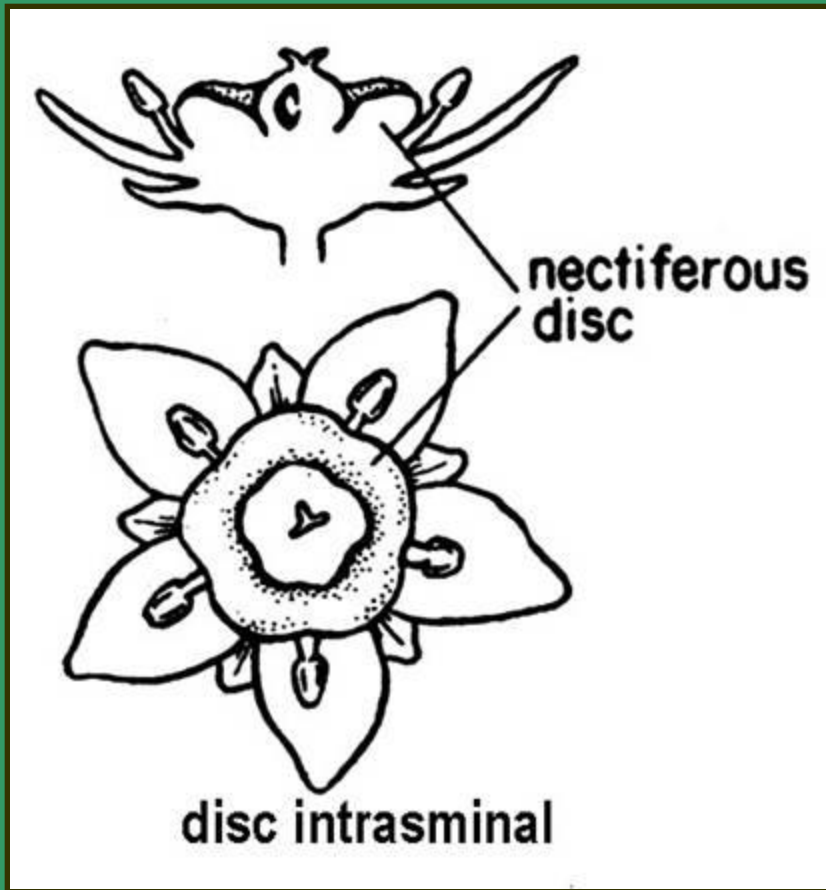
Capparis cynophallophora

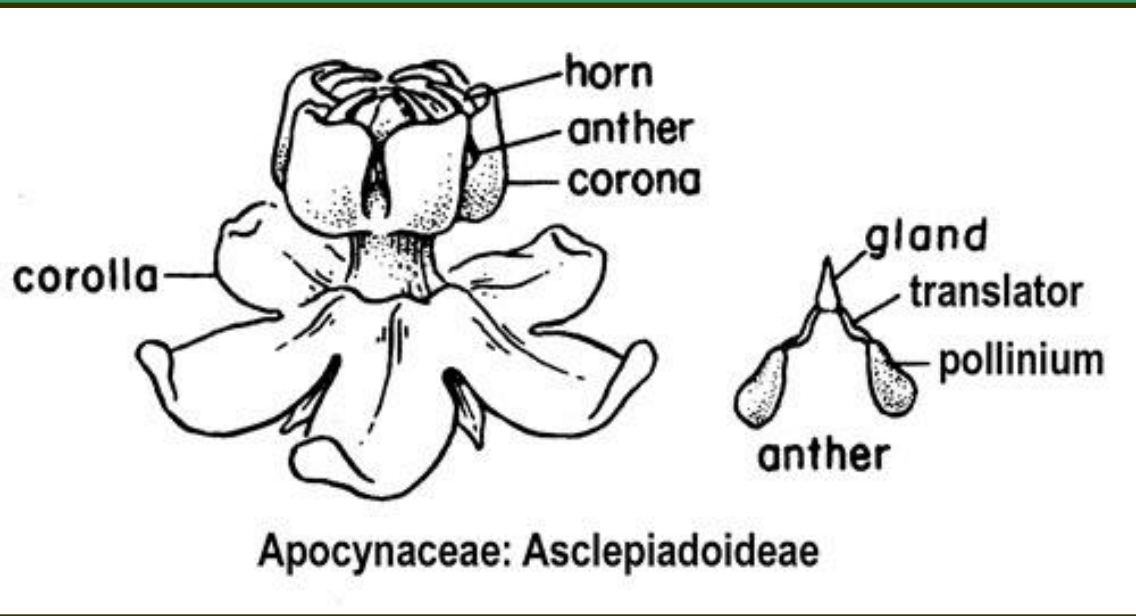


OVULE ATTACHMENT TO THE OVARY



NECTARIES





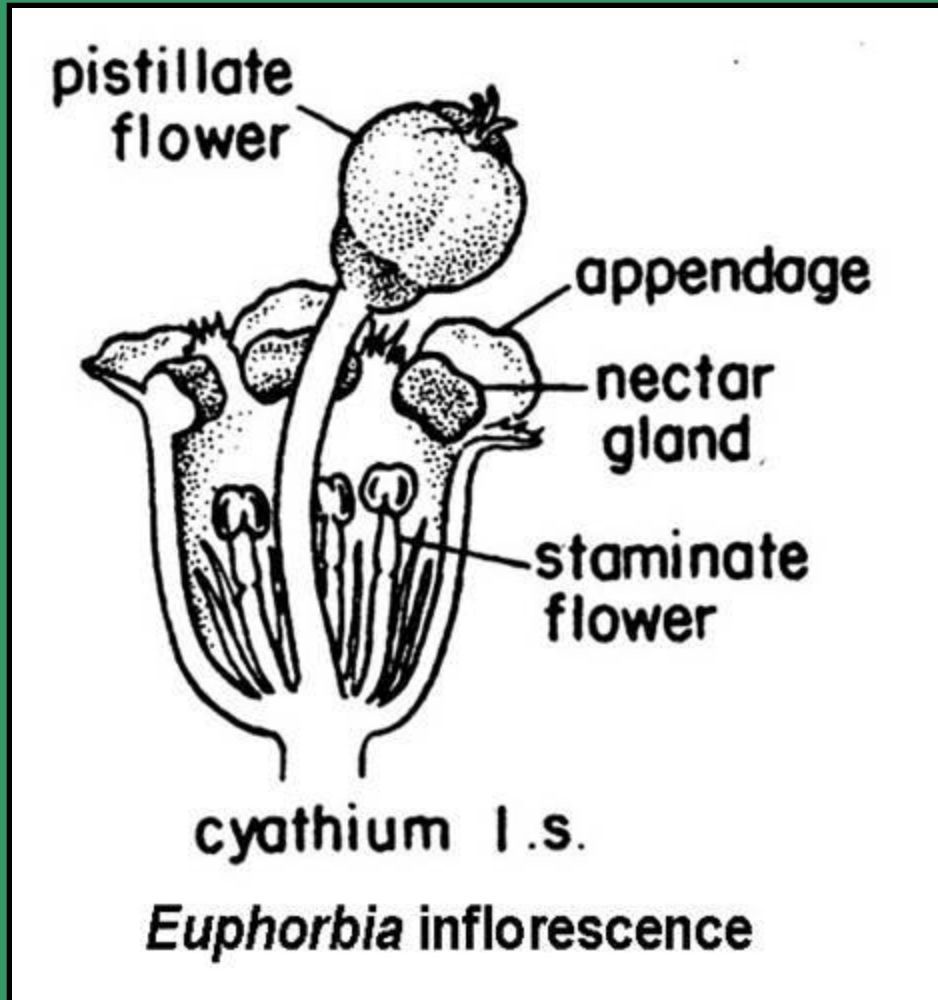
**SPECIALIZED FLOWER
OF A
MILKWEED**

**COMMON NAME =
ipecacuanha hippetyiguana**

**Apocynaceae
Asclepiadoideae
*Asclepias curassavica***



SPECIALIZED INFLORESCENCE OF EUPHORBIA



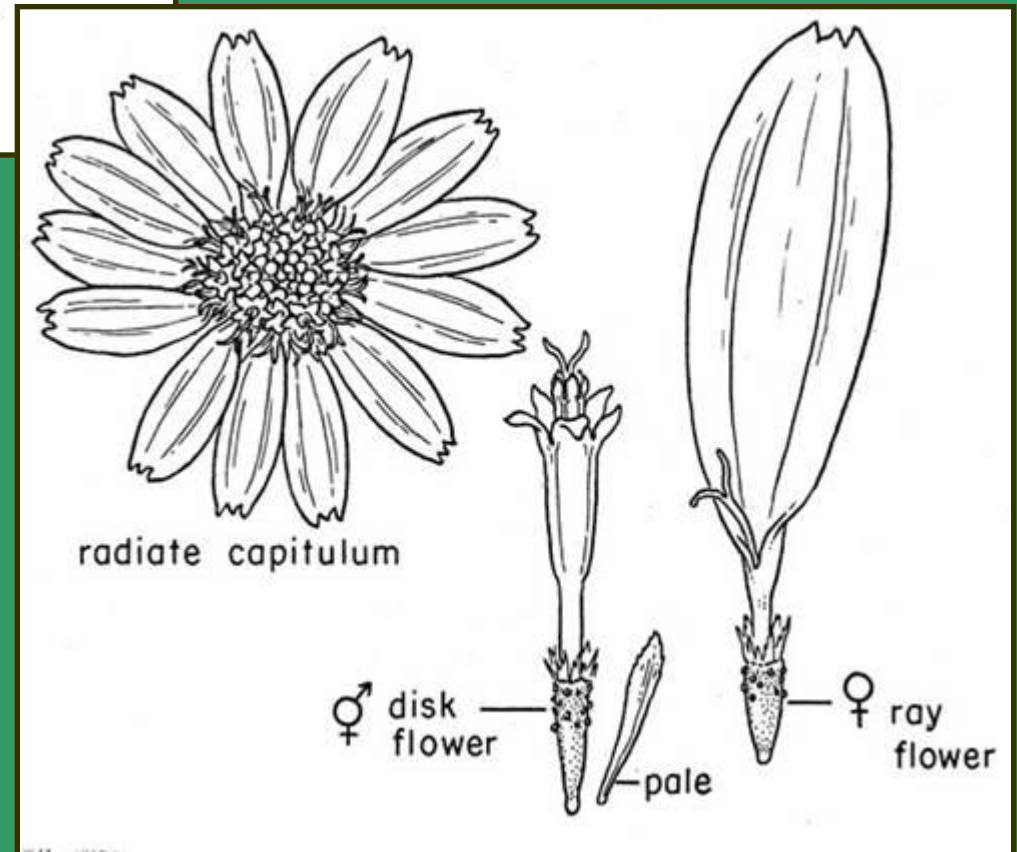
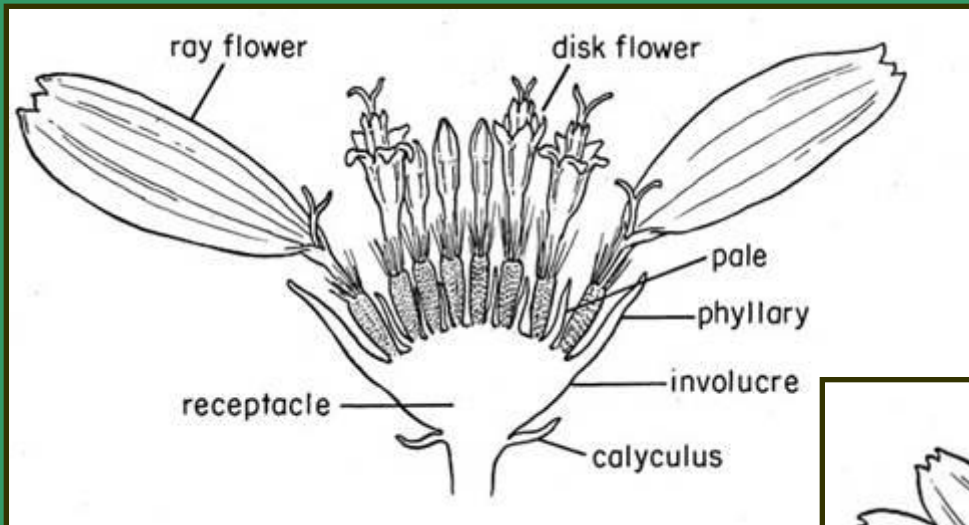


ASTERACEAE

(not a single flower
but a grouping of
many flowers)

Tithonia diversifolia





SPECIAL INFLORESCENCE AND FLOWERS OF ASTERACEAE

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT
FLOWER TERMINOLOGY CLICK ON
“GLOSSARY” IN THE BANNER AND
SEARCH FOR THE TERM.**