ASTERACEAE
(COMPOSITAE)

Dicotyledones
Gamopetalae
Inferae
Asterales
Asteraceae
700 genera
13,000 species.

Habit - mostly annual or perennial herbs, few are shrubs or trees

Leaves - alternate, rarely opposite, simple or compound, exstipulate.

Inflorescence - Head or capitulum. Each capitulum is subtended by an involucre of bracts which are protective in nature. The receptacle may be flat, concave or convex or elongated. mostly there are two types of flowers (florets) in a head. The central florets are actinomorphic and hermaphrodite known as disc florets whereas the ray florets lie towards the periphery and are usually zygomorphic and unisexual.

Flower - bracteate, sessile, complete or incomplete, unisexual or hermaphrodite, actinomorphic or zygomorphic, epigynous.

Calyx - usually pappus or hairy.

Corolla 3/5 petals, gamopetalous, tubular, valvate.

Androecium - 5 stamens, epipetalous, syngenesious, dithecous, introrse.

Gynoecium - Bicarpellary, syncarpous, unilocular, inferior ovary, basal placentation, stigma bifid.

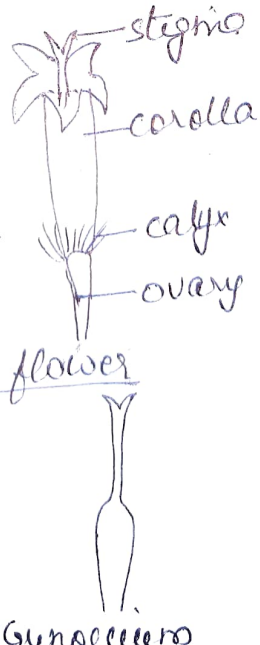
Floral formula -

Ray floret - Br. ⊕ ♀ K pappus $C_{(3)}$ or $C_{(5)}$ A_0 $\underline{G}_{(2)}$

Disc floret - Br. ⊕ ♀ K pappus $C_{(5)}$ A_5 $\underline{G}_{(2)}$

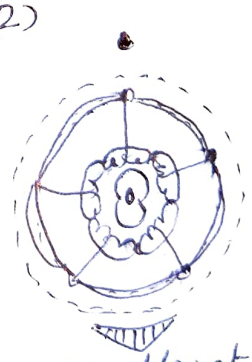
Important plants -

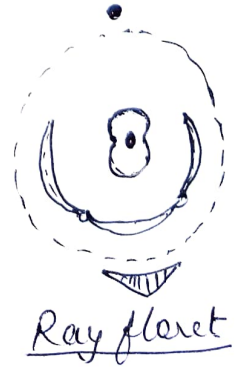
Helianthus annus
Tagetes erectus
Tagetes indica
Aster grandiflorus
Chrysanthemum carinatum
Dahlia pinnata
Zinnia elegans
Cosmos bipinnatus
Calendula officinalis
Lactuca sativa
Cichorium intybus
carthamus tinctorius



A flower

Gynoecium


Disc floret


Ray floret