

NYMPHAEACEAE

(Water lily Family)

Dicotyledones
Polypetalae
Thalamiflorae
Ranales
Nymphaeaceae.

2 genera
100 species

Habit - Aquatic, perennial herbs with coloured or watery latex.

Stem - Large, horizontal rhizomes rooted in the mud at the bottom of shallow lakes and ponds.

Leaf - long petioled, costipulate, broad.

Inflorescence - solitary terminal or axillary.

Flower - Large, showy, hermaphrodite, usually perigynous, fleshy thalamus surrounding the carpels.

Perianth - six to indefinite, free, if differentiated - calyx 3-5 corolla 3-5 or ∞

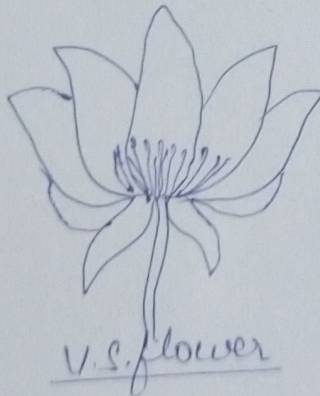
Androecium - numerous stamens, spirally arranged

Gynoecium - 6 to indefinite, free or fused, embedded in pits on large enlarged thalamus, ovary superior or inferior, placentation marginal or superficial.

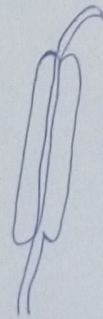
Floral formula - $\overline{E} \overline{B} \overline{C} \oplus \overline{K} \overline{A} \overline{G} \overline{O}$ $\overline{K}_{3-5} \overline{C}_{3-5 \text{ or } \infty} \overline{A}_{\infty} \overline{G}_{\infty \text{ or } (\infty)}$



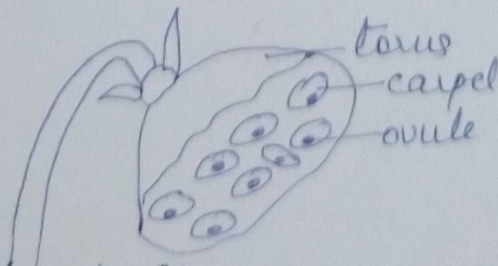
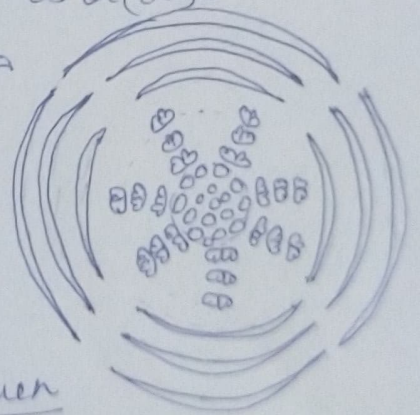
Habit



V.S. flower



A stamen



A fruit

Important plants -

- Nymphaea rubra
- Nymphaea maxicana
- Nymphaea nouchali

- Nuphar luteum
- Victoria regia
- Eurya ferox
- Cambomba aquatica
- Nelumbo nucifera

Comparison of Nymphaeaceae & Nelumbonaceae -

Nelumbonaceae
Flowers cyclic, hypogynous
carpels many, free or fused.

Nymphaeaceae
Flowers cyclic, hypo, peri or epigynous
perianth many, free, stamens many,
carpels many, free, embedded in torus