

# Topic: Floral Characters of Euphorbiaceae B.Sc. II Hons. & Sub.

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## Floral characters of Euphorbiaceae

### Inflorescence

Inflorescence is complex and highly variable. In *Phyllanthus*, the flowers are solitary or auxiliary. In *Croton*, the inflorescence is panicle. In *Acalypha*, it is catkin and in *Jatropha* the flowers are arranged in terminal cymose clusters.

The first branching is usually racemose and the subsequent branchings are cymose. The partial inflorescence is a cyathium

which appears as a single flower. Each cyathium is surrounded by an involucre of four or five connate bracts and between these large coloured glands a petaloid appendage is present (*Splendens*).

## **Flower**

The flowers are unisexual, bracteates, actinomorphic, regular, pentamerous or trimerous (*Phyllanthus*), monochlamydeous and hypogynous.

## **Perianth**

Perianth is mostly in one whorl, green or rarely petaloid

## **Androecium**

The Androecium show variable number of stamens. In male flowers they range from one to many arranged in one to ten whorls. Filaments are free or united. The anthers are monothealous or dithealous, erect and dehisce longitudinally or transversely.

## **Gynoecium**

The gynoecium is tricarpellary, syncarpous with superior, trilobular ovary. One or two collateral, pendulous, anatropous ovules in each locule in axile placentation are present. At the base of the ovaries nectarines are present.