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Parts of a Flower

A typical flower consists of four distinct parts the calyx, the corolla, the androecium and the gynoecium. The calyx and corolla are accessory parts and the androecium and gynoecium are essential parts.

These essential parts consist of two kinds of (male) sporophylls, the microsporophyll (male) and the megasporophyll (female).

A flower can be unisexual or bisexual. It is borne on short or long axis. The axis contains two regions the pedicel and the thalamus or receptacle.

The pedicel may be short, long or even absent. The thalamus is the swollen end of the axis on which the floral whorls are arranged.

Different parts of flower are given below

i. Calyx

It is the outermost whorl of a flower. It is made up of units like sepals. The sepals are generally green, leaf like and protect the flower in the bud stage, i.e., when floral in bud condition. They have veins and stomata like ordinary leaves but are thicker in nature. The sepals may be gamosepalous (sepals united), e.g., *Caesalpinia* or polysepalous (sepals free), e.g., *Crotalaria*. The sepals also prevent transpiration from inner parts of the flower. Coloured sepals attract insects for pollination.

ii. Corolla

It is composed of petals. Petals are usually brightly coloured to attract insects for pollination. Like calyx, corolla may also be gamopetalous (petals united) or polypetalous (petals free). The shape and colour of corolla may vary greatly in shape. Corolla may be tubular, bell-shaped, funnel-shaped.