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Aestivation

The mode of arrangement of sepals or petals in floral bud with respect to the other members of the same whorl is known as aestivation. The aestivation pattern is important in classification of – plants.

It is of following types

(a) Valvate Petals come to each other but do not overlap, e.g., mustard (Brassica).

(b) Twisted Regular overlapping of petals occurs in which margin of one petal overlap with the next one petal, e.g., China rose (Hibiscus rosa sinensis).

(c) Imbricate There are five petals, arranged in such a way that one petal is completely external and another petal is completely internal, while three petals are partially external and partially internal, e.g., Cassia, Cullistemon, Caesalpinia.

(d) Vexillary When the largest petal overlaps the two lateral petals which in turn overlap the two smallest anterior petals (keel), the aestivation is called as vexillary or papilionaceous.

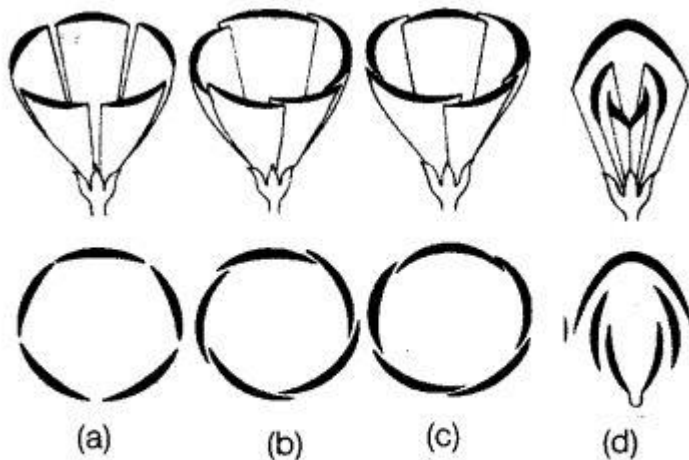


Fig. 5.17 Different types of aestivation of calyx and corolla (a) Valvate (b) Twisted (c) Imbricate (d) Vexillary