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Class : Deg. II (Hons)

Paper : III (Group - B)

Topic : Family - Ranunculaceae

Lecture No. - 09

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Family : Ranunculaceae

• Distribution :

Family Ranunculaceae includes about 50 genera and 1900 species which are distributed in North temperate regions and colder parts of the world. In India about 157 species commonly occur in the regions of Himalayas.

Characters of Family Ranunculaceae :

Vegetative characters :

- Habit : The plants are mostly annual or perennial herbs, some are shrubs, a few are aquatic and a very few are woody climbers.
- Root : Tap root, sometimes adventitious or tuberosous.
- Stem : Mostly herbaceous, aerial, erect, cylindrical, smooth, some times perennial and underground and in some species it is climber.
- Leaf : Simple, linear, usually exstipulate,

rarely stipulate, alternate rarely opposite, radical, much divided in palmate manner, sometimes hair like (Ranunculus) or some time cylindrical (Clematis).

Floral characters :

Inflorescence : Usually cymose, rarely racemose, sometimes solitary terminal or panicle.

Flower : Mostly actinomorphic, sometimes zygomorphic, bisexual, pentamerous, hypogynous and sometimes the calyx and corolla form spur.

Calyx : Sepals 5, polysepalous, imbricate aestivation, very often petaloid.

Corolla : Petals 5, polypetalous, imbricate aestivation, in some flowers, the calyx and corolla become undifferentiated and form perianth.

(Continued in next lecture-)