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Class : Deg. II (Hons.)

Paper : III (Group - 'B')

Topic : Family - Apocynaceae

Lecture No. - 15/

Date : 23/07/2020

Family : Apocynaceae

Classification :

Group : Angiospermae

Class : Dicotyledons

Sub-class : Gamopetalae

Series : Bicarpellatae

Order : Gentianales

Family : Apocynaceae

A. Vegetative characters :

- Habit : These are mostly twining or erect shrubs (Carissa, Nerium) and lianes, a few herbs and trees (Alstonia) with latex. Bicollateral bundles or internal phloem often present.

Root : A much branched tap root system.

Stem : Usually herbaceous (Catharanthus) erect, woody, solid, branched, green or succulent with latex.

Leaves: The leaves are simple, opposite (Catharanthus) or whorled (Nerium), rarely alternate. Petiolate or sub-sessile, exstipulate, margin entire, unicostate, reticulate venation.

## B. Floral characters:

### • Inflorescence:

Usually cymose, either terminal or axillary, may be cyme (Carissa) or umbellate cyme (Rauwolfia).

### • Flower:

The flowers are regular, bisexual and hypogynous, in cymes. They are usually salver- or funnel-shaped, often with corona.

### • Calyx:

The sepals are (5), rarely (4), gamosepalous and often united only at the base.

### • Corolla:

There are (5) petals, rarely (4). They are gamopetalous and twisted, sometime imbricate, rarely valvate.

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(Continued in next lecture.)