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 class : Deg. II (Hons.)  
 Paper : III (Group - 'B')  
 Topic : Family - Euphorbiaceae (continued)  
 Lecture No. - 63  
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Family : Euphorbiaceae (continued) :

- Floral characters :
- Inflorescence :  
 The inflorescence varies greatly. This may be racemose, cymose or mixed, or a cyathium, as in Euphorbia. In cyathium inflorescence, a large number of male flowers, each represented by a stalked stamen are found arranged around a central stalked female flower. The female flower consists of gynoecium only.
- Flowers :  
 These are small, bracteate, regular and hypogynous. They are always unisexual and may be monoecious or dioecious. Rudiments of the other sex are often present.
- Perianth :  
 Mostly of one whorl, green or rarely petaloid, rarely double (croton) with 4-5 petals. Sometimes altogether absent. It is dissimilar in male and female flowers.

The perianth consists of 4 to 5 petals.  
The calyx and corolla consists of 4 to 5 sepals or petals. The aestivation is valvate or imbricate.

• Male flower:

Naked (i.e., perianth absent), number of stamens may be one to indefinite, either free or united.  
In Euphorbia, each male flower consists of a single stalked stamen. In Jatropha, the stamens are usually 10 arranged in two whorls.  
In Ricinus, the stamens are 5, profusely branched, the filaments may be free or connate.

• Female flower:

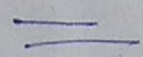
There are 3 carpels, syncarpous, superior ovary, trilobular, axile placentation, having one or two ovules in each locule. It is pendulous.  
There are three (3) styles, each bifid, and 6 stigmas.

• Fruits:

The fruit is mostly a capsule or a regma.

• Seed:

The seed is albuminous or endospermic.



(Continued...)