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Class : Deg-II (Hons)

Topic : Family - Poaceae

Paper : III (Group - B)

Lecture No. - 74

Date : 8/09/2020

Family : Poaceae

• Classification :

Division : Angiospermae

Class : Monocotyledons

Series : Glumaceae

Family : Poaceae or Gramineae

(According to Bentham and Hooker)

• Distribution :

Poaceae (Gramineae) or grass family, constitutes the second largest family of monocotyledons, containing about 620 genera and 10,000 species. They are among the most cosmopolitan of all flowering plants. They are found largely in the tropical regions and occur abundantly in temperate regions. The plants represent all the three ecological types as hydrophytes, xerophytes and mesophytes. In India, it is represented by 870 species. In India, this family is represented by a large number of plants,

which constitute the chief foodgrain, such as wheat, Rice, Maize, Barley, sugarcane etc. (2)

• Habit:

Plants of this family are mostly annual or perennial herbs or shrubs, rarely woody as Bamboos, as attain a great height upto 100 ft. like tree. They are very widely distributed all over the earth.

• Vegetative characters:

• Root:

This is adventitious, fibrous, branched, fascicled or stilt as in Zea mays.

• Stem:

This is cylindrical and has distinct nodes and internodes, (sometimes hollow), called culm. Mostly hollow and fistular, rarely solid (Sugarcane), may be erect, prostrate or even creeping. Most of the grasses are runners, some are suckers, underground rhizome in all perennial grasses, vegetative shoots are arising from the base of aerial stem or from the underground stem are called tillers.

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