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Class : Deg-II (Hons.)

Paper : III (Group-'B')

Topic : Family - Poaceae (Contd.)

Lecture No. - 79

Date : 14/09/2020

Family : Poaceae (Contd.):

• Vegetative characters :

• Leaves :

These are simple, alternate and distichous. They have a sheathing leaf base which is split open on the side opposite the leaf-blade. There is a hairy structure, called the ligule, at the base of the leaf-blade.

Parallel venation.

• Floral characters :

This is usually a spike or a panicle of spikelets. Each spikelet consists of one or few flowers (not exceeding 5), and its base bears two empty bracts or glumes, (G_I, G_{II}), one placed a little above and opposite the other. A third glume, called the lemma or flowering glume, stands opposite the second glume.

The lemma encloses a flower in its axil. It may have a bristle-like appendage, long or short, known as the awn.

Opposite the flowering glume or lemma, there is a somewhat smaller, 2-nerved glume called the palea. The palea stands between the lemma and the rachis.

The spikelet may be sessile or stalked.

The essential organs of the flower lie between the tightly overlapping lemma ~~and~~ and palea.

- Flowers: (wheat, oat) (maize)
 These are usually bisexual, sometimes unisexual and monoecious; sessile, bracteate, incomplete. Zygomorphic, irregular, hypogynous, cyclic.

- Perianth:
 This is represented by 2 or 3 minute scales, called the lodicules, at the base of the flower. These are considered to form the rudimentary perianth.

- Androecium:
 There are three stamens, may be sometimes 6, as in rice and Bamboo or 2 or even 1. The anthers are versatile and pendulous.

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