

ANGIOSPERMS

- The angiosperms form the largest and most diverse division of the plant kingdom with more than 250,000 species.
- They are flowering plants and dominate the vegetation on land.
- The word Angiosperm is derived from two Greek words: angeion - “vessel” and sperma - “seed.”
- **The main distinguishing features of the angiosperms are the flowers, fruits and distinctive life cycle.**
- They are the largest group of photosynthesizing plants containing both chlorophylls ‘a’ and ‘b’ and also accessory pigments.
- **The vegetative form (sporophytic stage) of angiosperms is the dominant form and consists of leaves, stems and roots.**

There is great diversity in the vegetative forms;

- Trees with upright trunks (size >100m in height, 20m in girth as seen in the *Eucalyptus* sp.),
- Shrubs that form branches from the ground level
- Herbs are non woody annual, biennial, or perennial plants
- Vines are flexible stemmed plants which use other plants for support to grow into the sunlight They may be woody (lianas) or herbaceous (climbers/creeper^s)
- Epiphytes



Shrub



Tree



herbs



shrub



tree



climbers



lianas



tendril climber



epiphytes

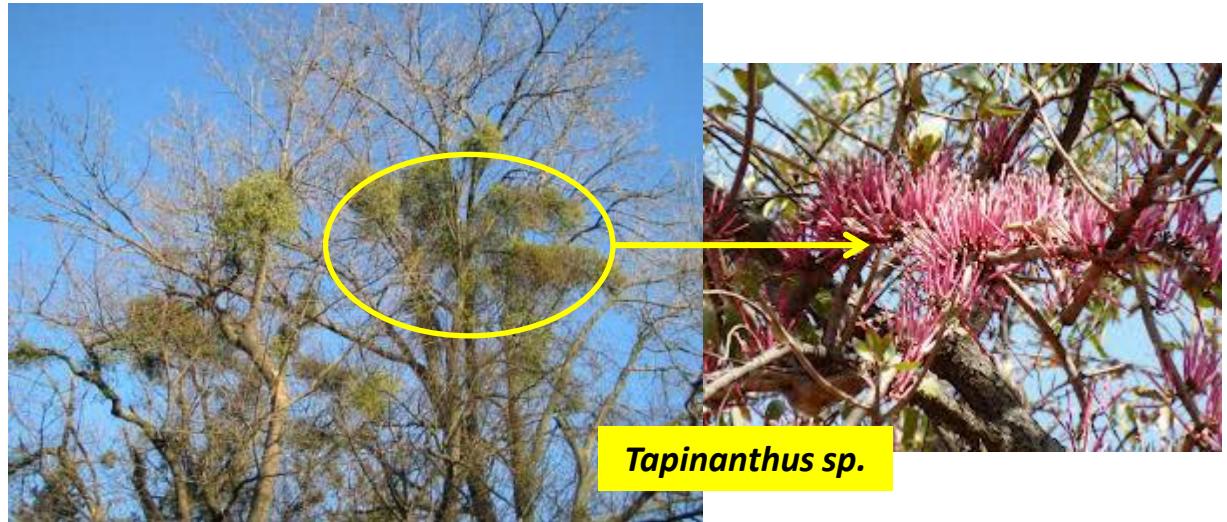


root climber



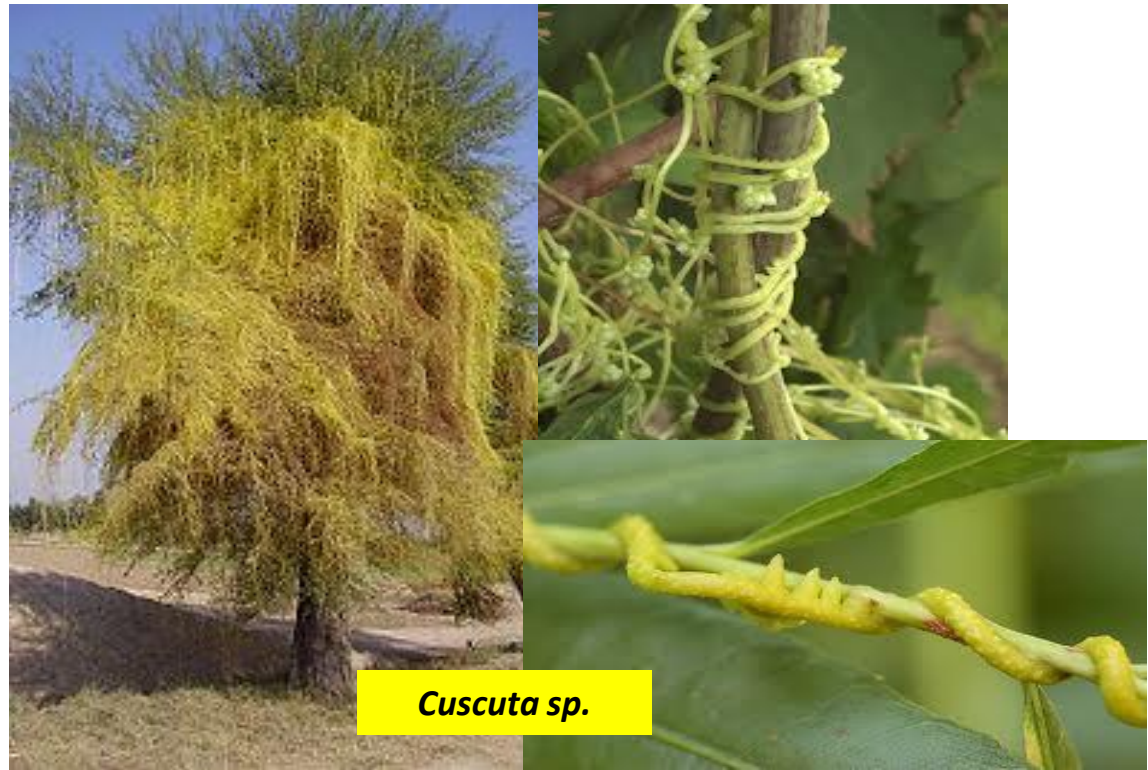
Habitat

- Angiosperms can be found in different habitats. They may be terrestrial or aquatic.



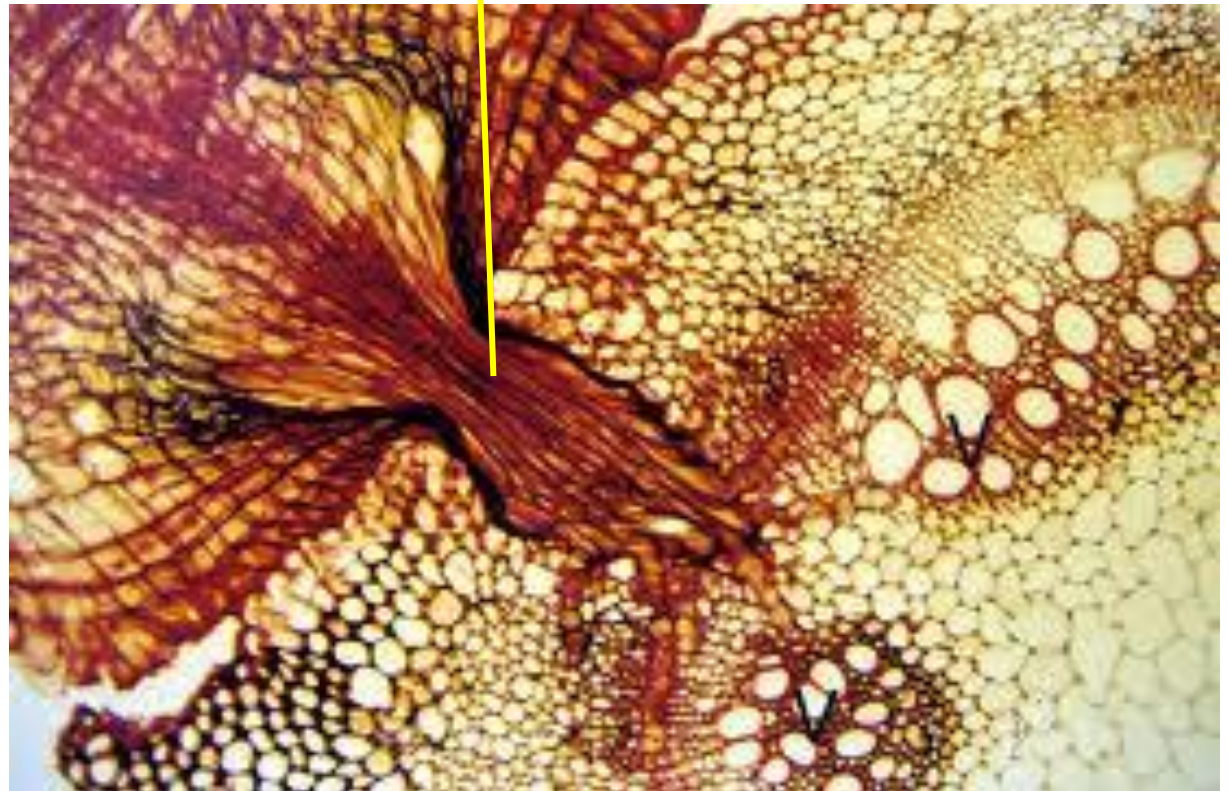
Nutrition

- Most species are photosynthetic and thus autotrophic. Few are parasitic e.g. *Tapinanthus* sp. and *Cuscuta* sp. and absorb nutrients from the host plant through haustoria that penetrate the host tissues.





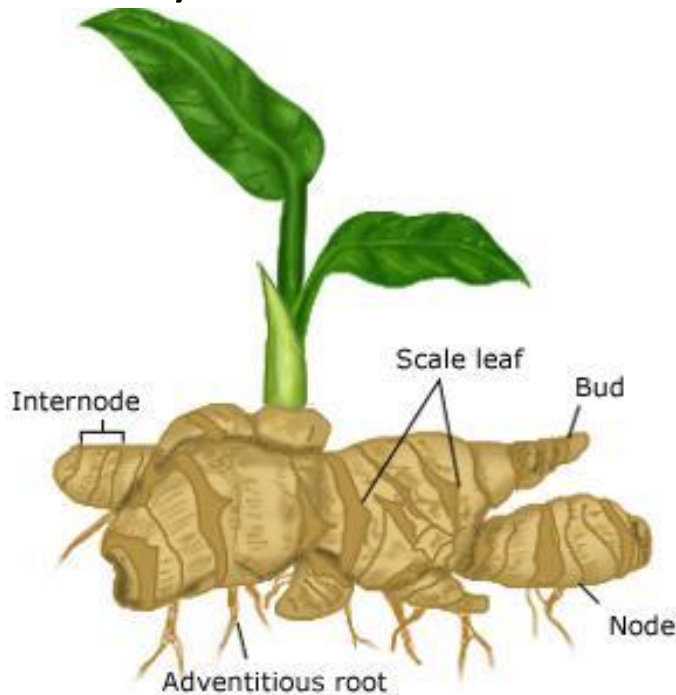
***Cuscuta* Haustoria**



**T.S. of *Cuscuta* Haustoria
penetrating host vascular
tissue to draw out nutrition**

Reproduction

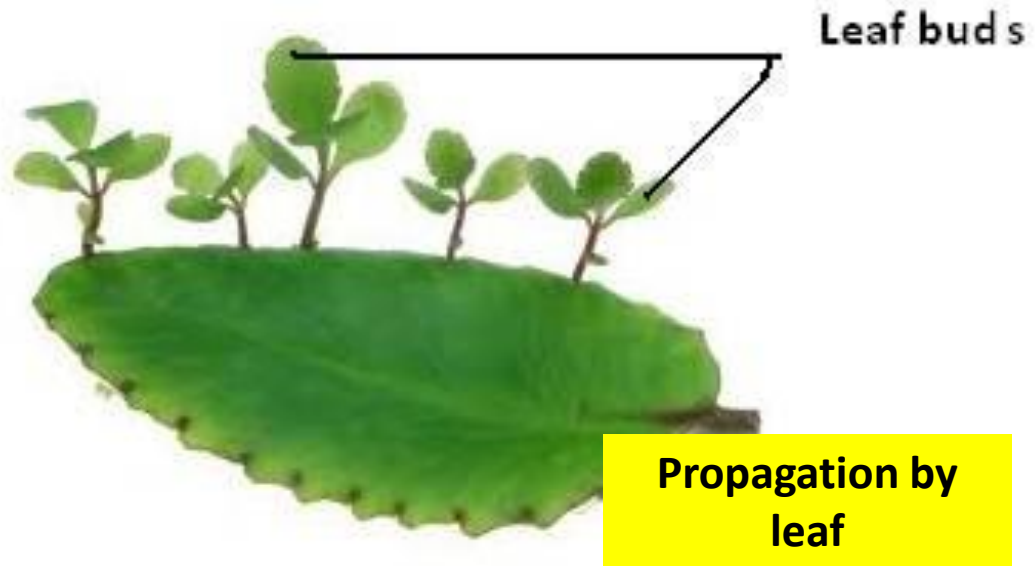
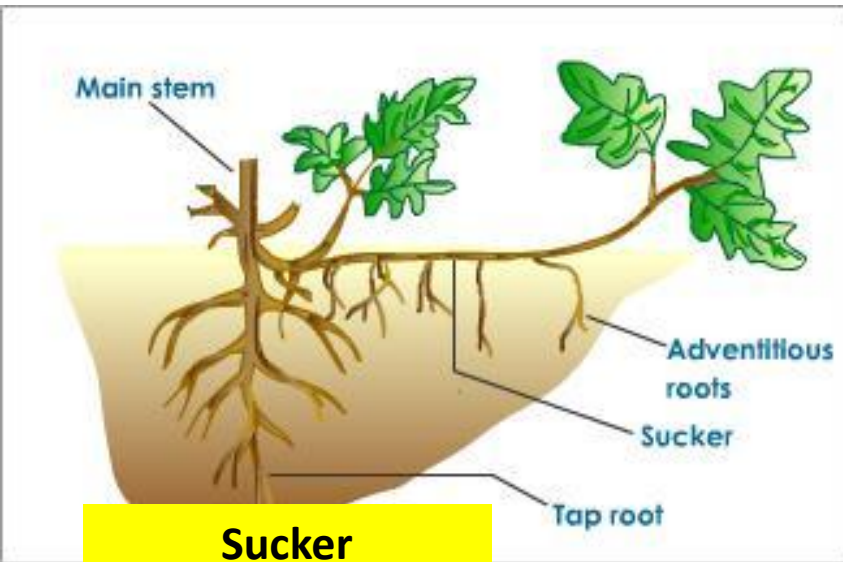
- There is alternation of vegetative and reproductive phases.
- Reproduction in angiosperms can be vegetative or sexual. Vegetative reproduction can be by special organs (rhizomes, corms, suckers, stem cuttings, leaf, etc.)



Rhizome



corm



Stem cuttings

Angiosperm flower

- Flowers of angiosperms are specialized reproductive structures.
- They are made up of four main parts – Sepals, Petals, Stamens and Carpels.
- The flowers may be found at the ends of branches or in the axils of leaves.
- They may or may not be conspicuous. Conspicuous flowers have floral parts - sepals and petals which are coloured and attractive.
- Plants may have only male or female flowers – **dioecious**; or have both the males and female flowers on the same plant but on different branches – **monoecious** ; or have both male and female reproductive structures on the same flower – **hermaphroditic**.



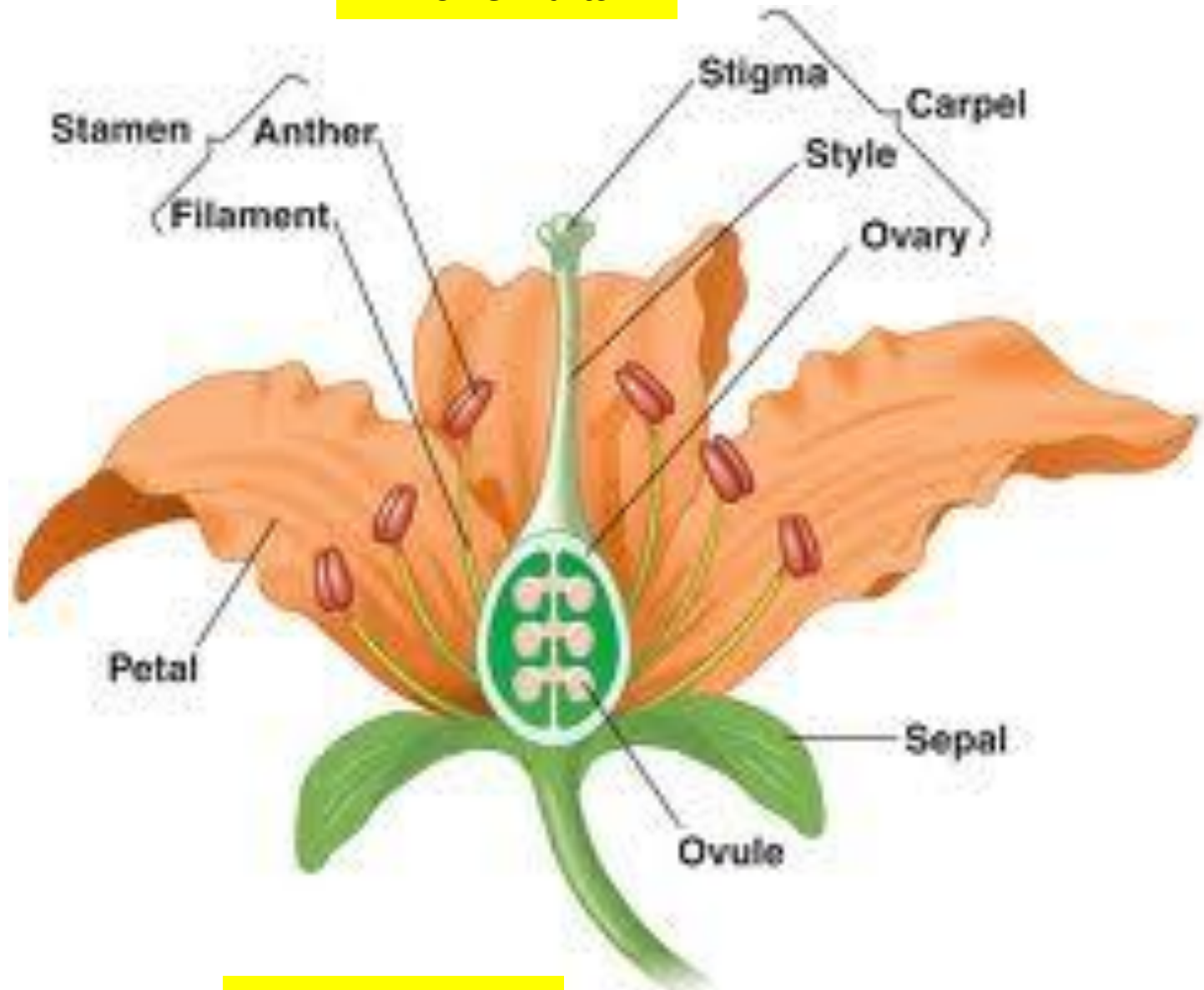
Solitary flowers



Inflorescence



Flower Parts



Perfect Flower



Male flower

Female flower



Photography Neil Bromhal

LS of Male flower

LS of Female flower

- The male reproductive structures are the stamens which produce and bear the pollen that contain the male gametes.
- The female reproductive structures are the carpels which consist of the stigma, style and ovary. The ovary contains the ovules which are the female gametes.
- Another peculiarity of angiosperms is that they undergo double fertilization. One sperm fertilizes the egg to form a diploid zygote and the other sperm fertilizes the two polar nuclei to form a polyploid endosperm.
- The zygote develops into the embryonic axis and the storage tissue. Angiosperms form true seeds that are enclosed by other reproductive tissues to form the fruit.

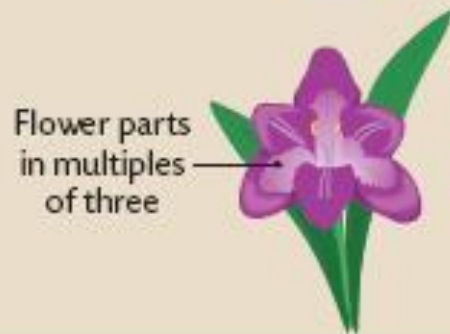
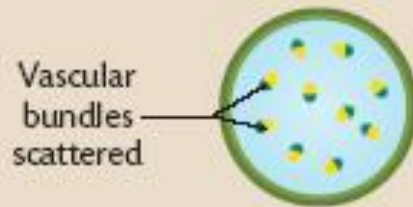
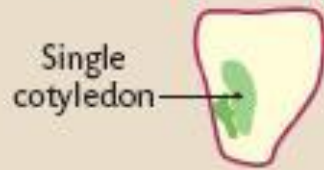
- All angiosperms belong to the single division Magnoliophyta which is divided into two classes; the Magnoliopsida previously known as Dicotyledons and the Liliopsida which were referred to as Monocotyledons.

CLASS LILIOPSIDA (MONOCOTS)

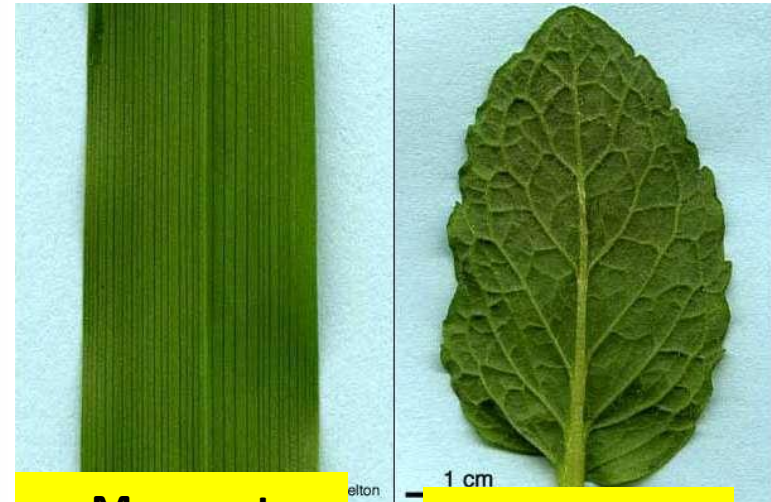
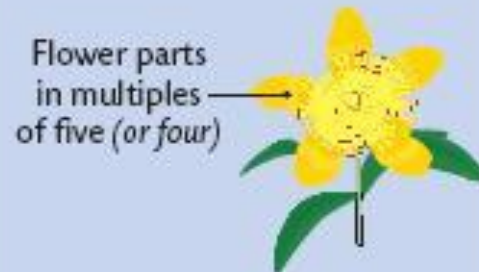
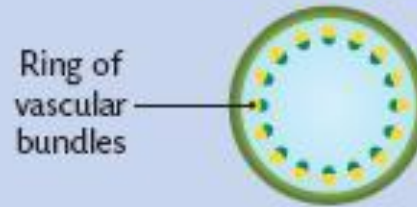
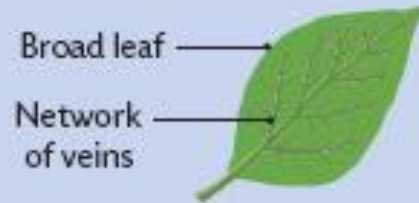
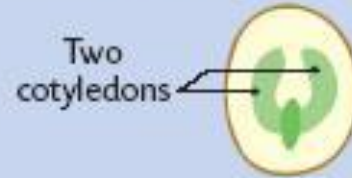
- Monocots are usually herbaceous with less than 10% being woody.
- Mostly the woody stem is usually of uniform diameter throughout the length of the plant.
- Leaves are sessile (do not have petioles i.e. leaf stalk), mostly long and slender with parallel veins. Leaves have extensions at the base known as leaf sheaths that clasp and cover the internodal region of the shoot.
- The mature root system is completely adventitious.
- Monocot seeds possess a single cotyledon – hence the name monocotyledon.
- Floral parts occur in threes or multiples of three.
- Majority of the monocots are perennial herbs with persistent underground stems that may be horizontal rhizomes or vertical corms. Reproduction in the Liliopsida is both vegetative and sexual.

- **The Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledon)**
- The stems are branched.
- The leaves are sessile or stalked and are generally broad with reticulate venation.
- Seeds contain two cotyledons.
- A few of the dicots have endosperm as the main storage tissue.
- They can be herbaceous and woody. The woody forms usually undergo secondary growth.
- The tap root system is prominent in dicots.
- The floral parts are in multiple of four or five

MONOCOTS



DICOTS



Monocot

Dicot



Monocots
Parts in 3s



Dicots
Parts in 4s or 5s

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ANGIOSPERMS

- **As food:**

They are consumed directly as food e.g. cereals, pulses (legumes), fruits, vegetables, roots and tubers, or indirectly in food and beverage industry e.g. essences (vanilla), malted cereals for beer.

- **As fibers:**

They provide fibres for clothing, ropes, etc. For e.g. Cotton (*Gossypium* sp.), Jute (*Corchorus capsularis* and *C. olitorius*), Sisal hemp (*Agave sisalana*), Linen (*Linum usitatissimum*).

- **As medicine:**

Organic compounds synthesized (alkaloids, glycosides) by plants are used in treating various ailments. E.g. Artemisinin used in treating malaria.

- **As Constructional material:**

Wood of various angiosperms is used for construction of buildings, railways, ships, and furniture. E.g. Teak (*Tectona grandis*).

- **As Rubber:**

The latex of few angiosperms used in various industrial processes e.g. tyre-making from the rubber plant (*Hevea* sp.)

- **As Essential oils:**

The essential oil obtained from flowers, fruits, seeds, leaves, etc. are used in cosmetic industry.

- **As Horticulture** - Ornamental, landscaping and restoration of ecosystem.