

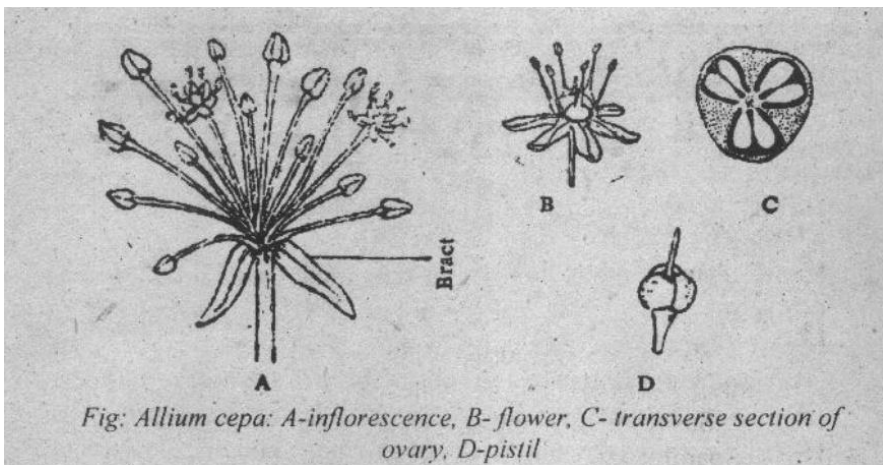
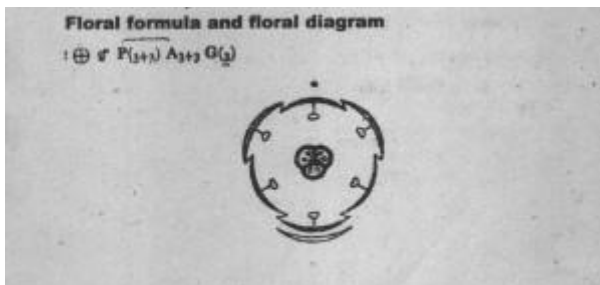
## FAMILY: LILIACEAE (Monocot Family)

### (Lily Family)

Liliaceae is the family of around 2500 species of perennial, herbaceous monocots. It is also known as the 'lily family'. Its characteristics are discussed below.

#### Diagnostic characters

1. **Habit:** Mostly annual or biennial herbs. Some plants are xerophytic.
2. **Roots:** Fibrous adventitious roots. In some cases roots become tuberous.
3. **Stem:** Herbaceous; fleshy in some plants; aerial braches are erect; some develops underground stem rhizome, corm, bulb etc. In some cases, stem is reduced to phylloclades.
4. **Leaves:** Sessile; radical; alternate or whorl; simple; exstipulate; sheathing leaf base; parallel venation.
5. **Inflorescence:** Racemose or cymose clusters; mixed inflorescence.
6. **Flower:** Pedicel late; bracteate; actinomorphic; Regular; hermaphrodite (rarely unisexual); hypogynous, trimerous;
7. **Perianth:** 6 perianth leaves; arranged in two whorls; polyphyllous or gamophyllous; green or brightly coloured.
8. **Stamens:** 6 stamens; arrange in two whorls; polyandrous; basifixed.
9. **Carpel:** Tricarpillary; syncarpous; ovary superior; trilobed stigma; axile placentation.
10. **Fruits:** capsule
11. **Seed:** Endospermic.



### **Economic Importance**

1. **Foods:** Onion, garlic and asparagus (L)y.. c.—) are used as food.
2. **Drugs:** Some plants yield drugs. Some of these plants are *Smilax*, *Aloe*, and *Urginaca*.
3. **Fibers:** Some plants give fibers. These plants are *Yucca* and *Phormium tenax*.
4. **Resin:** Resin is obtained from *Dracaena*.
5. **Ornamental plants:** Many species are cultivated as ornamental plants. Some of these plants *Tulips*., *Lilies*. *Ruscus* and *Yucca*.
6. **Perfumes:** Some species of lily are used in perfumes.

### **Distribution pattern**

It is one of the largest families of angiosperms. It has 200 genera and 2600 species. It is distributed all over the world. But its members are especially abundant in sub-tropical and temperate regions.

### **Common species**

*Allium cepa* (onion)

1. *Allianz salivum* (garlic)
2. *Asparagus oficinales*
3. *Yucca gloriosa* (Adam's Needle)