

FAMILY CACTACEAE

Succulent herbs and shrubs

Stems fleshy, spherical, flattened, or cylindrical

Stems usually assuming the photosynthetic function of the leaves

Leaves alternate, simple, usually reduced or lacking in mature plants

Leaves usually modified to spines

Flowers solitary

Flowers usually bisexual

Flowers actinomorphic

Calyx of a few (<10) separate petaloid sepals

Corolla of many (>10) separate petals

The perianth (calyx and corolla) sometimes fused into a hypanthium

Androecium of numerous separate stamens

Gynoecium of 2 to many united carpels

Ovary inferior

Fruit a many-seeded berry

Some Common Names: Prickly Pear, Cholla, Saguaro, Barrel Cactus

Some Important Plants: *Opuntia* (foods - Nopalitos, fruits), Peyote, many ornamentals

Member of Subclass Caryophyllidae

	Primitive	Advanced
Sepals		
Few		x
Separate	x	
Petals		
Many	x	
Separate	x	
Perianth		
Sometimes united		x
Stamens		
Many	x	
Separate	x	
Pistil		
1 pistil		
2-many united carpels	x	x
Ovary inferior		x
Symmetry		
Actinomorphic	x	