

FAMILY LAMIACEAE

Aromatic herbs, sometimes shrubs, rarely trees or vines

Stems usually 4-sided

Leaves opposite or whorled

Leaves usually simple

Flowers bisexual

Flowers zygomorphic

Calyx of 5 united sepals – sometimes bilabiate

Corolla of 5 united petals – **bilabiate with 2 fused upper petals and 3 fused lower petals**

Androecium of 2 or 4 epipetalous stamens (if 4, usually didynamous)

Gynoecium of 2 united carpels, **ovary distinctly 4-lobed**

Ovary superior

Fruit usually 4 nutlets

Some Common Names: Mint, Bee Balm, Skull Cap

Some Important Plants: Many ornamental and culinary plants – Lavender, Rosemary, Peppermint, Spearmint, Sage, Thyme, Basil, Oregano

Member of Subclass Asteridae

Primitive vs. Advanced

	Primitive	Advanced
Sepals		
5		x
United		x
Petals		
5		x
United		x
Stamens		
2 or 4		x
Separate	x	
Pistil		
1 pistil		x
2 united carpels		x
Ovary superior	x	
Symmetry		
Zygomorphic		x