

Primitive vs. Advanced

Primitive

Flower parts numerous (more than 10)

Flower parts free

Flowers hypogynous (ovary superior)

Flowers actinomorphic (radial symmetry)

Sepals are usually few, they may be free or united, and the calyx may be actinomorphic or zygomorphic.

Petals are usually few, they may be free or united, and the corolla may be actinomorphic or zygomorphic.

Stamens may be numerous or few, and they may be free or united by their filaments and(or) anthers. Stems are not usually considered for symmetry.

There may be numerous pistils, a few pistils, or only one pistil. If there are numerous or few pistils, they are simple (composed of one carpel each). If there is one pistil, it may be simple (composed of one carpel) or compound (composed of two or more united carpels).

If the sepals, petals, and stamens are attached below the ovary of the pistil, then the ovary is superior and the flower is hypogynous. If the sepals, petals, and stamens are attached above the ovary of the pistil, then the ovary is inferior and the flower is epigynous. Pistils are not usually considered for symmetry.

Advanced

Flower parts few (10 or less)

Flower parts united

Flowers epigynous (ovary inferior)

Flowers zygomorphic (bilateral symmetry)