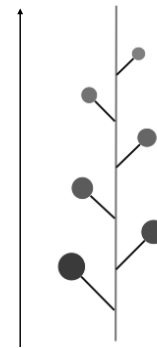


Inflorescences - Floral Displays



The vast majority of flowering plants possess flowers in clusters called an **inflorescence**.

These clusters facilitate pollination via a prominent visual display and more efficient pollen uptake and deposition than with single flowers widely spaced.



Raceme



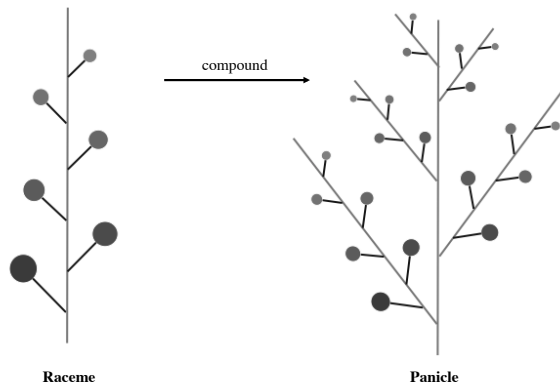
(*Prunus* or cherry)

The shift from widely spaced single flowers to an inflorescence required condensation of shoots and the loss of the intervening leaves.

The simplest inflorescence type would thus be **indeterminate** with the oldest flowers at the base and the younger flowers progressively closer to the apical meristem of the shoot.

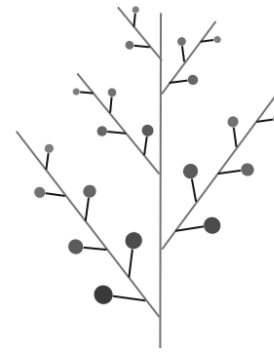
= a **raceme**

One modification of the basic raceme is to make it compound



Raceme

Panicle

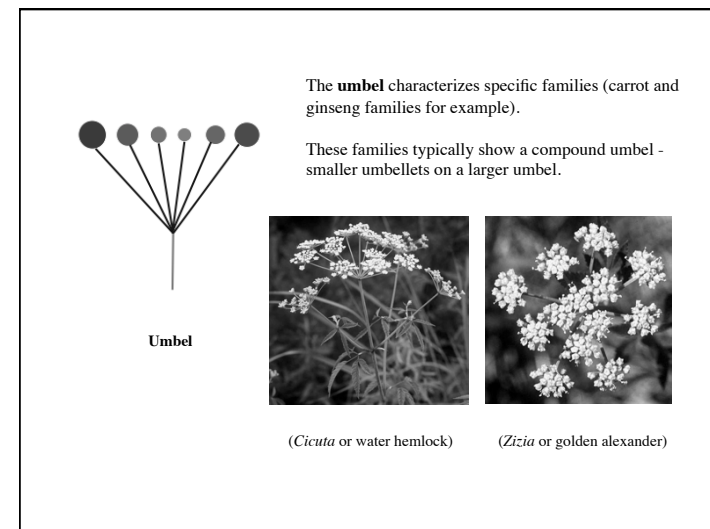
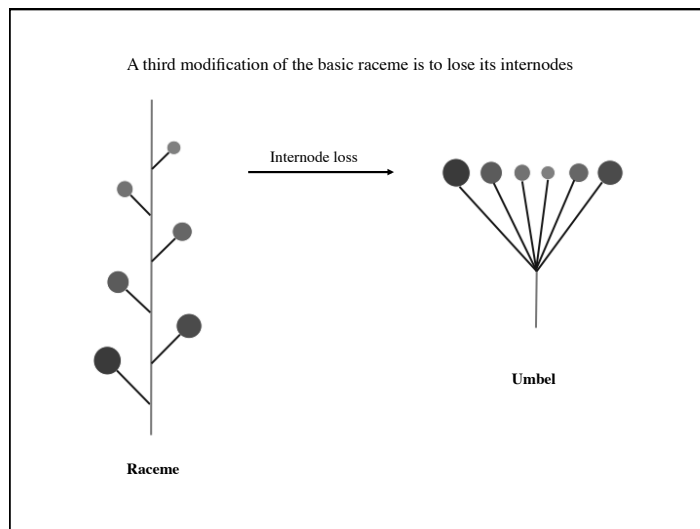
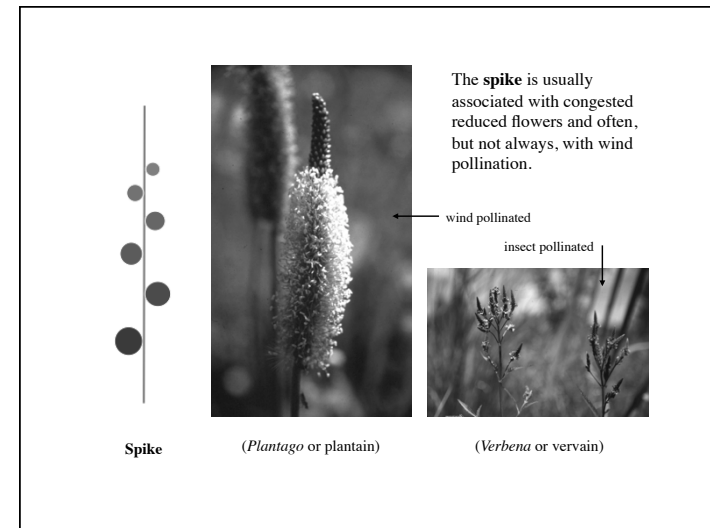
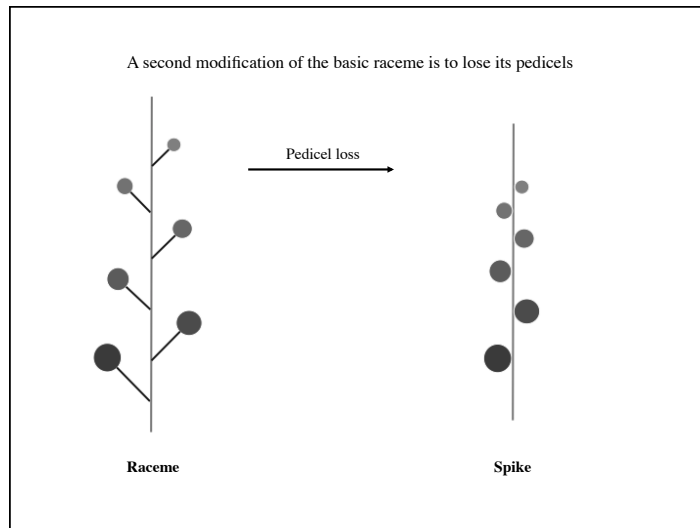


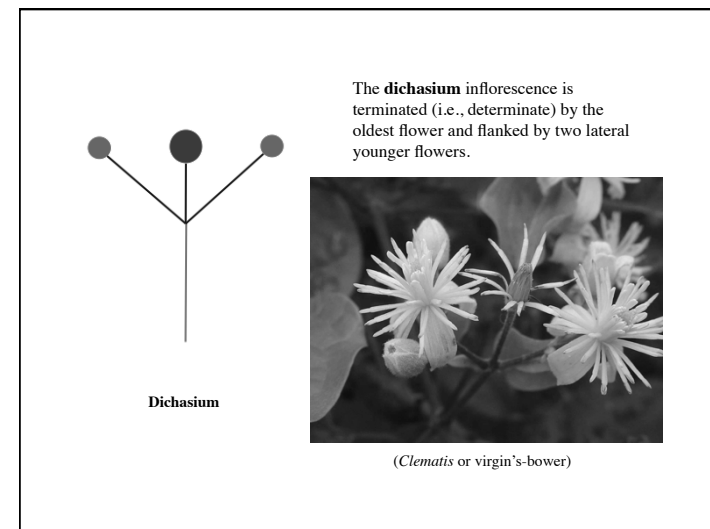
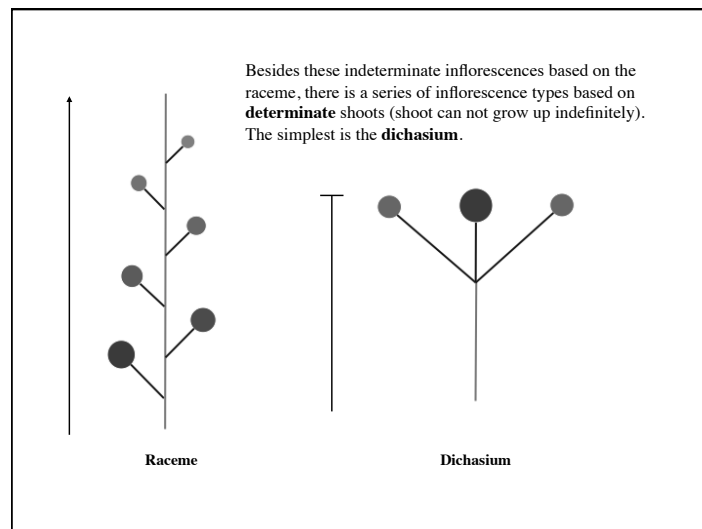
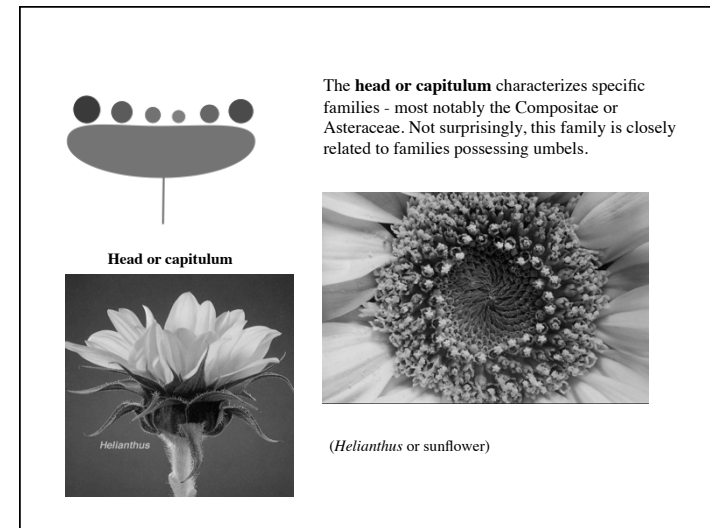
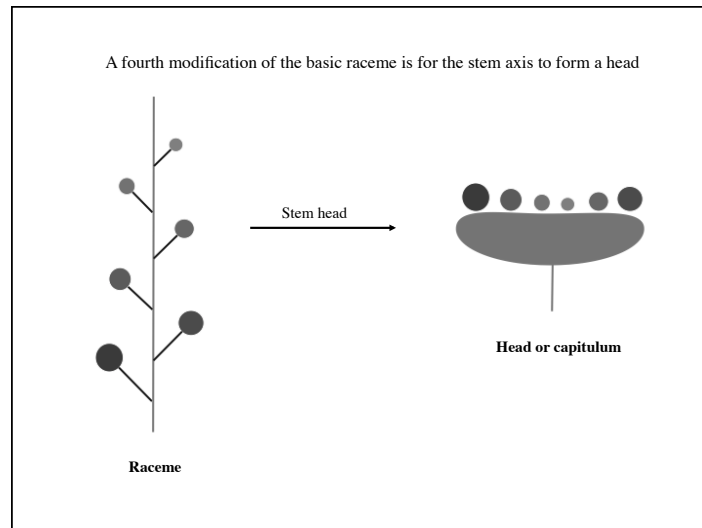
Panicle

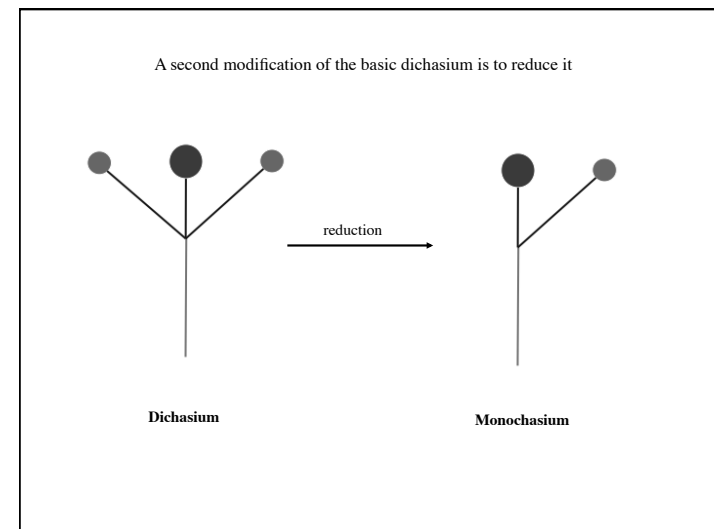
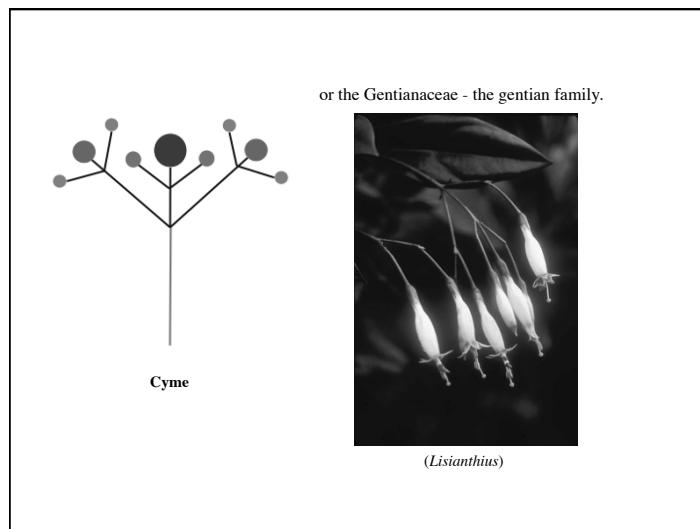
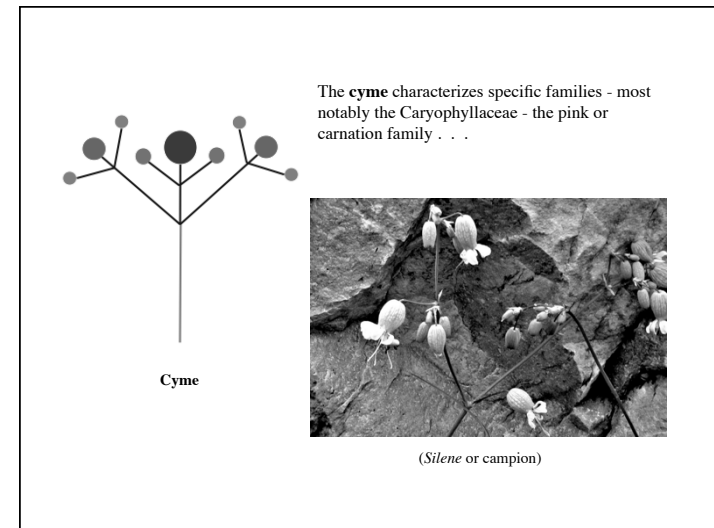
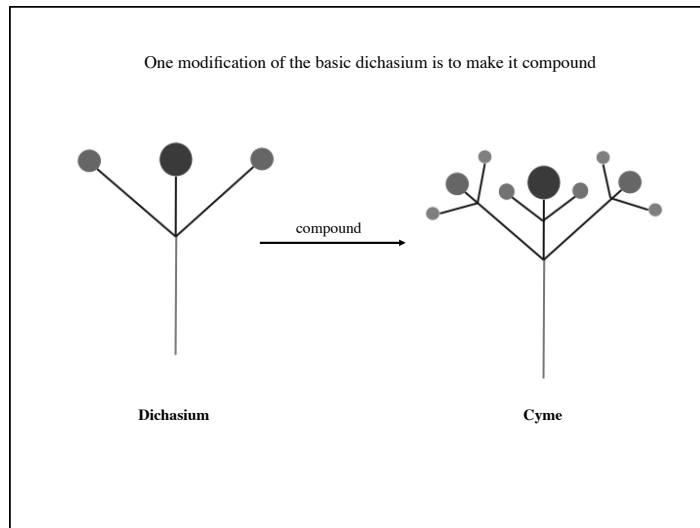


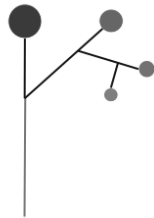
(*Zizadenus* or white camass)

The **panicle** is essentially a series of attached racemes with the oldest racemes at the base and the youngest at the apex of the inflorescence.









Scirpoid

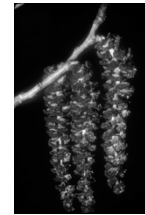
The **monochasium** is most often seen in compound form as a **scirpoid** inflorescence. The Boraginaceae (Virginia bluebell family) is characterized by this distinctive inflorescence.



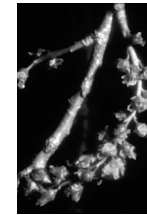
(Mertensia or bluebell)

Another specialized inflorescence is the **catkin** or **ament**

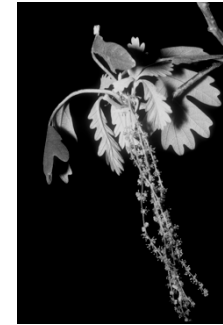
- unisexual cluster of small flowers
- apetalous (without petals)
- hard bracts around the flowers
- wind pollinated
- falls as a unit



[male catkin]



[female catkin]



[male catkin]

(Quercus or white oak)

A final specialized inflorescence is the **spadix**

- thickened, fleshy spike
- associated with **spathe** bract
- frequently flowers unisexual
- best developed in the aroid family (Araceae)



(Symplocarpus or skunk cabbage)



(Arisaema or Jack-in-the-pulpit)