

Note that the flowers do not grow *singly*, as in the previous plants. Here the main stem sustains a *cluster* composed of numerous small flowers, although each separate flower is supported on a slender offshoot of the stem. The term peduncle is in such a case applied to the portion of stem which supports the cluster, while the small stalks of the individual flowers are called *pedicels*.

29. The separate flowers (Fig. 26) are rather small and will require more than ordinary care in their examination. The calyx is polysepalous, and of four sepals. The corolla is polypetalous, and of four petals. The stamens (Fig. 27), are six in number, and if you examine them attentively, you will see that two of them are shorter than the other four. The stamens are consequently said



Fig. 26.



Fig. 27.

to be *tetradynamous*. But if there had been only *four* stamens, in two sets of two each, they would have been called *didynamous*. The stamens are inserted on the receptacle (hypogynous). The pistil is separate from the other parts of the flower (superior).

30. To examine the ovary, it will be better to select a ripening pistil from the lower part of the peduncle. It is a flat body, nearly circular in outline (Fig. 28), but with a deep notch on its upper edge. Inspect the notch with your lens and find the short style at its base. Notice also the veiny wing which forms



Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.

Fig. 26.—Flower of French Weed.

Fig. 27.—The same, with calyx and corolla removed.

Fig. 28.—Ripened pistil of French Weed.

Fig. 29.—The same, with one side removed to show the seeds.