

DIVISION I. SPADICEOUS ENDOGENS.

Flowers collected on a spadix, with or without a spathe or sheathing bract. Leaves sometimes net-veined.

ARACEÆ.—Herbs (either flag-like marsh plants or terrestrial), with pungent juice, and simple or compound leaves, these sometimes net-veined. Spadix usually (but not always) accompanied by a spathe. Flowers either without a perianth of any kind, or with 4-6 sepals.

TYPHACEÆ.—Aquatic or marsh plants, with linear straight-veined leaves erect or floating, and monœcious flowers. Heads of flowers cylindrical or globular, no spathe and no floral envelopes.

LEMNACEÆ.—Small aquatics, freely floating about.

NATACEÆ.—Immersed aquatics. Stems branching and leafy. Flowers perfect, in spikes, generally on the surface.

DIVISION II. PETALOIDEOUS ENDOGENS.

Flowers not collected on a spadix, furnished with a corolla-like, or occasionally herbaceous, perianth.

A. Perianth superior (adherent to the ovary.)

* *Flowers dioecious or polygamous, regular.*

HYDROCHARIDACEÆ.—Aquatics. Pistillate flowers only above water; perianth of 6 pieces.

DIOSCOREACEÆ.—Twining, from knotted rootstocks. Leaves heart-shaped, net-veined. Pod with 3 large wings.

* * *Flowers perfect.*

ORCHIDACEÆ.—Stamens 1 or 2, gynandrous. Flowers irregular.

IRIDACEÆ.—Stamens 3.

B. Perianth inferior (free from the ovary.)

ALISMACEÆ.—Pistil apocarpous; carpels in a ring or head, leaves with distinct petiole and blade.

SMILACEÆ.—Climbing plants, with alternate ribbed and net-veined petioled leaves. Flowers dioecious.