

Monocotyledons, Part 2

Monocots were summarized in an earlier lab and handout. Part 2, treated here, include the so-called “graminoid” (grass-like) monocots.

I. Monocots Part 2

A. Families to Know on Sight

1. Cyperaceae (sedge family) – p. 193

Diagnostic Summary: Graminoid herbs with solid, triangular stems; Leaves spirally arranged, linear, with closed basal sheaths; Flowers tiny in spikes or panicles of spikelets; Fruits indehiscent triangular or lenticular achenes.

Generalized Flora Formula: $P^{0-6 \text{ bristles}} A^3 \underline{G}^{[3]}$ (perigynium in *Carex*)

2. Poaceae (grass family) – p. 302

Diagnostic Summary: Graminoid herbs (bamboos) with hollow, round or terete stems; Leaves distichous, linear, with open basal sheaths; Flowers tiny, with highly modified perianth, in spikes or panicles of spikelets, each spikelet subtended by 2 glumes; Fruits indehiscent and nut-like caryopses (singular caryopsis).

Generalized Flora Formula: $Ca^2 \text{ (palea \& lemma)} Co^2 \text{ lodicules} A^3 \underline{G}^{[2-3]}$ spikelet glumes

B. Genera to Know (you can write your own key to genera)

1. Typhaceae – p. 183

1) *Typha* (aquatic herbs)

2. Cyperaceae – p. 193

2) *Carex* (herbs)

3) *Cyperus* (herbs)

3. Juncaceae – p. 183

4) *Juncus* (aquatic or terrestrial herbs)

4. Poaceae or Gramineae – p. 302

5) *Digitaria* (herbs)

6) *Eluesine* (herbs)

7) *Miscanthus* (herbs)

8) *Panicum* (herbs)

9) *Pennisetum* (herbs)

10) *Phragmites* (herbs)

11) *Phyllostachys* (woody “shrubs” or “trees”; “bamboos”)

12) *Setaria* (herbs)