Types of Inflorescences

- **Determinate:**
  - main axis ends in a flower
  - flowering sequence usually begins w/ terminal flw at top or center

- **Indeterminate:**
  - growing point produces only lateral flowers or clusters of flowers
  - flowering sequence usually begins at base or outside of cluster
Cyme:

- Determinate, compound growth of repeating units (lateral branches usually in 3’s)
- Pedicels bearing terminal flws have 1 or 2 bracteoles, each assoc. w/ an axillary flower
- Usually opposite branching
Scorpioid Cyme:
- Coiled cyme
- Lateral branches (and flowers) develop alternately on opposite sides of the axis

Both are typical of Boraginaceae, & Hydrophyllaceae

Helicoid Cyme:
- Coiled cyme
- Lateral branches all develop from the same side of the axis

Phacelia congesta, Hydrophyllaceae

Heliotropium indicum, Boraginaceae

Symphytum officinale, Boraginaceae
- Umbel:
  - Determinate or indeterminate growth
  - All flowers have pedicels of equal or unequal length that arise from a single region at the apex of the inflorescence axis

Liliaceae

Asclepiaceae

Cicuta douglasii, Apiaceae
Head (= Capitulum):
- Determinate or indeterminate growth
- Very short, often disklike axis
- Usually sessile flowers

Typical of Asteraceae
Raceme:
- Indeterminate growth
- Simple, single axis bearing pedicellate flowers

Chamerion angustifolium, Onagraceae

Brassica sp., Brassicaceae

Lupinus sp., Fabaceae
❖ Spike:

- Indeterminate growth
- Simple, single axis bearing sessile flowers
Corymb:

- Indeterminate growth
- Raceme w/ pedicels of lowermost flowers elongated, bringing all flowers to more or less the same level (a flat-topped raceme)
Fascicle:

- Indeterminate or determinate growth
- Reduced, axillary, unbranching, floral clusters

Rumex crispus, Polygonaceae
Panicle:

- Indeterminate growth
- 2 or more orders of branching, each axis bearing flowers or higher order axes
Catkin (=Ament):

- Indeterminate growth
- A dense, elongated mass of inconspicuous, usually wind-pollinated flowers
**Spathe:**
- Large bract surrounding or subtending an inflorescence
- Often showy

**Spadix:**
- Spike with a thickened, fleshy axis
- Bearing sessile flowers

Characteristic of Araceae