

The Flower — Why Important?

The Flower: most significant feature of angiosperms

- 1. unlike anything else in other plants & extremely variable & co-evolved with animals
- 2. floral features used in describing and id'ing
- 3. plant specimens (herbarium) must include flowers or derived features
- 4. classification of angiosperms relies on flowers

Calochortus - fairy lanterns & mariposas (images: T. Givnish









The Flower — What is it?

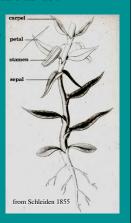
- specialized shoot = stem + leaves (folia)
- shoot is highly modified and determinate (ceased to grow)



The Flower — What is it?

• "foliar theory" of flower - J.W. von Goethe in "Attempt to Interpret the Metamorphosis of Plants" (1790)





The Flower — What is it?

- developmental/evolutionary origin of the flower still debated
- Euanthial theory (foliar theory) - single shoot
 - anthers ovules
- 2. Pseudanthial theory compound shoot or cone





The Flower — What is it?

- thus, a flower is a specialized shoot that:
- 1. is determinate (vs. indeterminate)
- 2. has a modified stem with compressed internodes
- 3. possesses modified leaves with various functions, these determined by gene arrays (e.g., ABC model)



