

Second largest family of dicots, cosmopolitan. Mostly herbaceous, a few shrubs. Includes some food crops (safflower, artichoke, lettuce, sunflowers), ornamentals (Marigolds, Daisys), and medicinal plants (wormwood, arnica). Many such as dandelion are 'weeds'.

Leaves usually alternate, simple or compound, and exstipulate. Basal rosettes are common. The small reduced flowers (florets) are arranged in a composite head that is diagnostic for the family and acts as a single functional blossom. The head is subtended by imbricated bracts or phyllaries, collectively called the involucre. Composite heads may be solitary or arranged in corymbs, cymes, panicles or racemes on the plant.

Florets may be perfect, imperfect, or sterile. Ovary is inferior; stamens 5. Disk florets are tubular and actinomorphic. Ray florets are zygomorphic, consisting of a short tube and one long ray or ligule, and often lack stamens. The sepals on both floret types are reduced to pappus, bristles, or lacking entirely. Depending on the group, heads may have all ray florets (*Taraxacum*), all disk florets (*Antennaria*) or both, typically with disk florets to the inside, surrounded by ray florets (*Aster*). Fruit is an achene.

New terms: ligule, ray, involucre, disk, tubular, phyllaries, pappus, capitulum

*Solidago, Aster, Erigeron, Antennaria, Achillea, Chrysanthemum, Artemisia, Petasites, Senecio, Arnica, Taraxacum, Saussurea, Crepis,* and more!

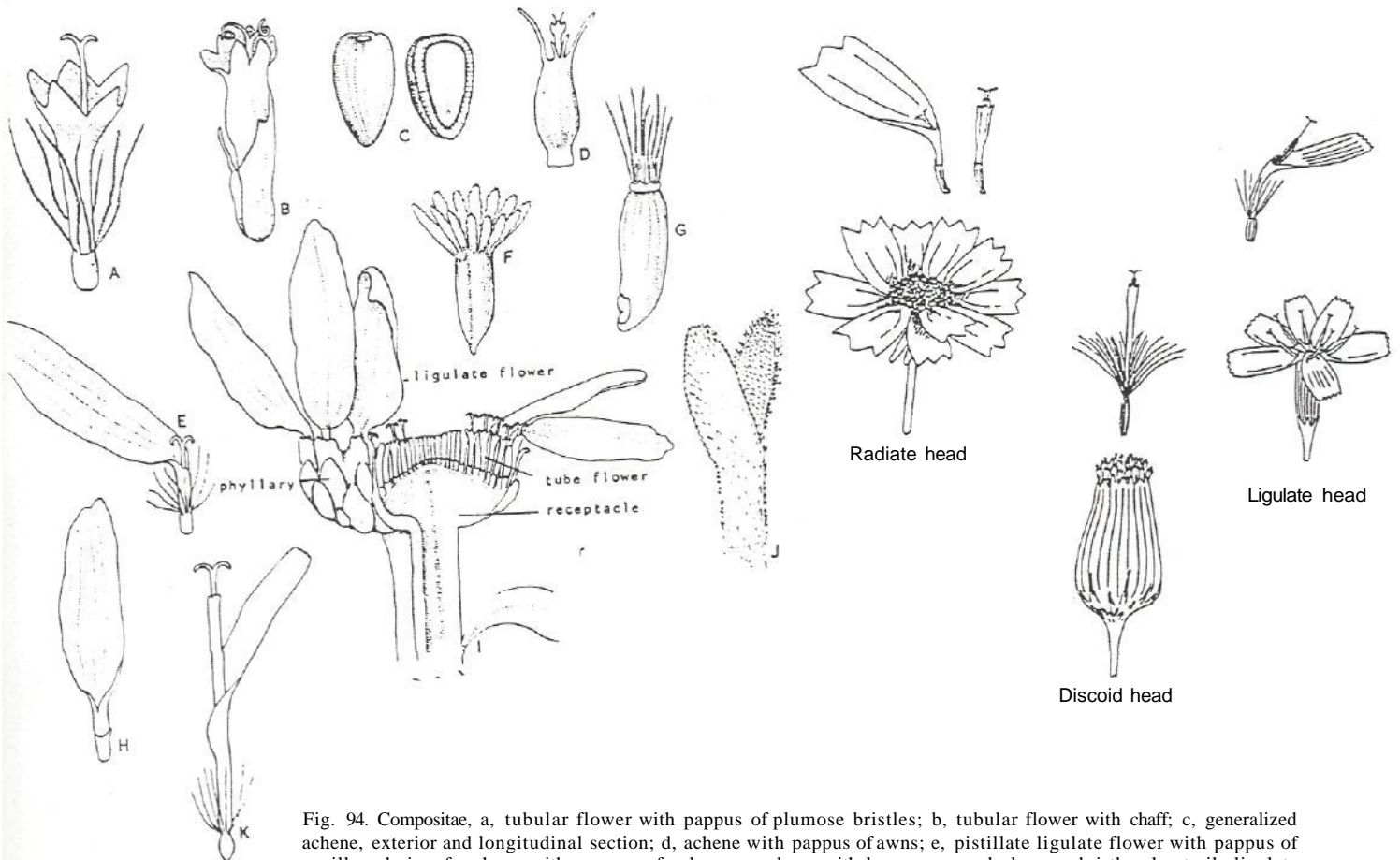


Fig. 94. Compositae, a, tubular flower with pappus of plumose bristles; b, tubular flower with chaff; c, generalized achene, exterior and longitudinal section; d, achene with pappus of awns; e, pistillate ligulate flower with pappus of capillary hairs; f, achene with pappus of paleae; g, achene with low crown and plumose bristles; h, sterile ligulate flower; i, generalized inflorescence; j, style, Anthemideae; k, perfect ligulate flower with pappus of capillary hairs; l,