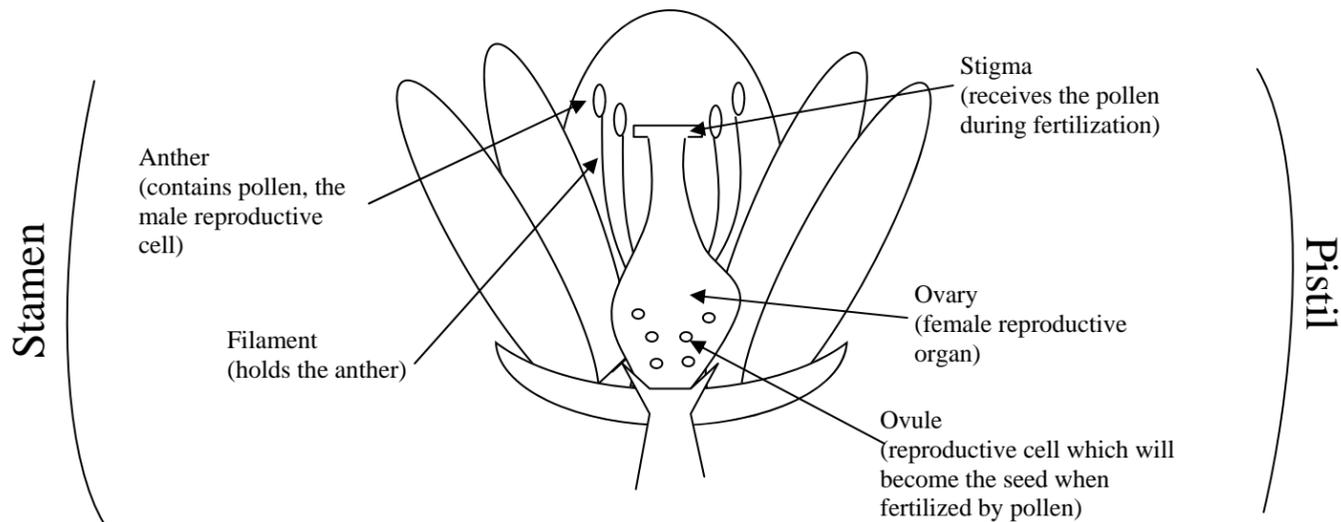


ANGIOSPERMS

FLOWERING PLANTS

Complete flowers have stamens, a pistil, petals, and sepals.



Stamens: Male Reproductive Organs

A stamen consists of an anther (which produces pollen, the male reproductive cell) and a filament.

Pistils: Female Reproductive Organs

The pistil includes an ovary (where the ovules are produced; ovules are the female reproductive cells, the eggs), and a stigma (which receives the pollen during fertilization).

Fertilization

Pollination is often aided by insects like bees, which fly from flower to flower; as they visit flowers, they spread pollen and deposit it on the stigmas. After pollen grains have landed on the stigma, pollen tubes develop, and burrow down into the ovary, there the pollen (sperm cell) fertilizes an ovule (egg cell). After fertilization, the ovule develops into a seed.

In contrast to the idealized diagram above flowers actually are quite varied in appearance. Petals come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, some “petals” are actually leaves. (Some types of flowers have both male and female reproductive organs (as shown above), others have only male or only female reproductive organs.)

POINSETTIA



The colorful, showy bracts are actually modified leaves. The true flowers are yellow and held in the center of the bracts in a structure called a cyathium.

CHRYSANTHEMUM



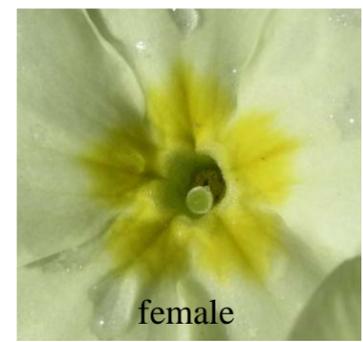
The blossom is really a cluster of small flowers. The showy outer flowers, which look like petals, are called rays. The fertile disc flowers grow in the middle.

LILY

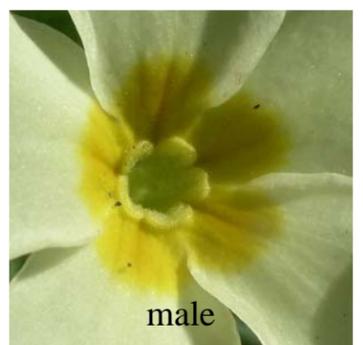


This lily has both male and female parts. It is comparable to the idealized flower diagram above.

PRIMROSE



female



male

Primroses have dimorphic flowers: two different forms (male or female) are found on different plants of the same species.