

BOTANICAL MORPHOLOGY

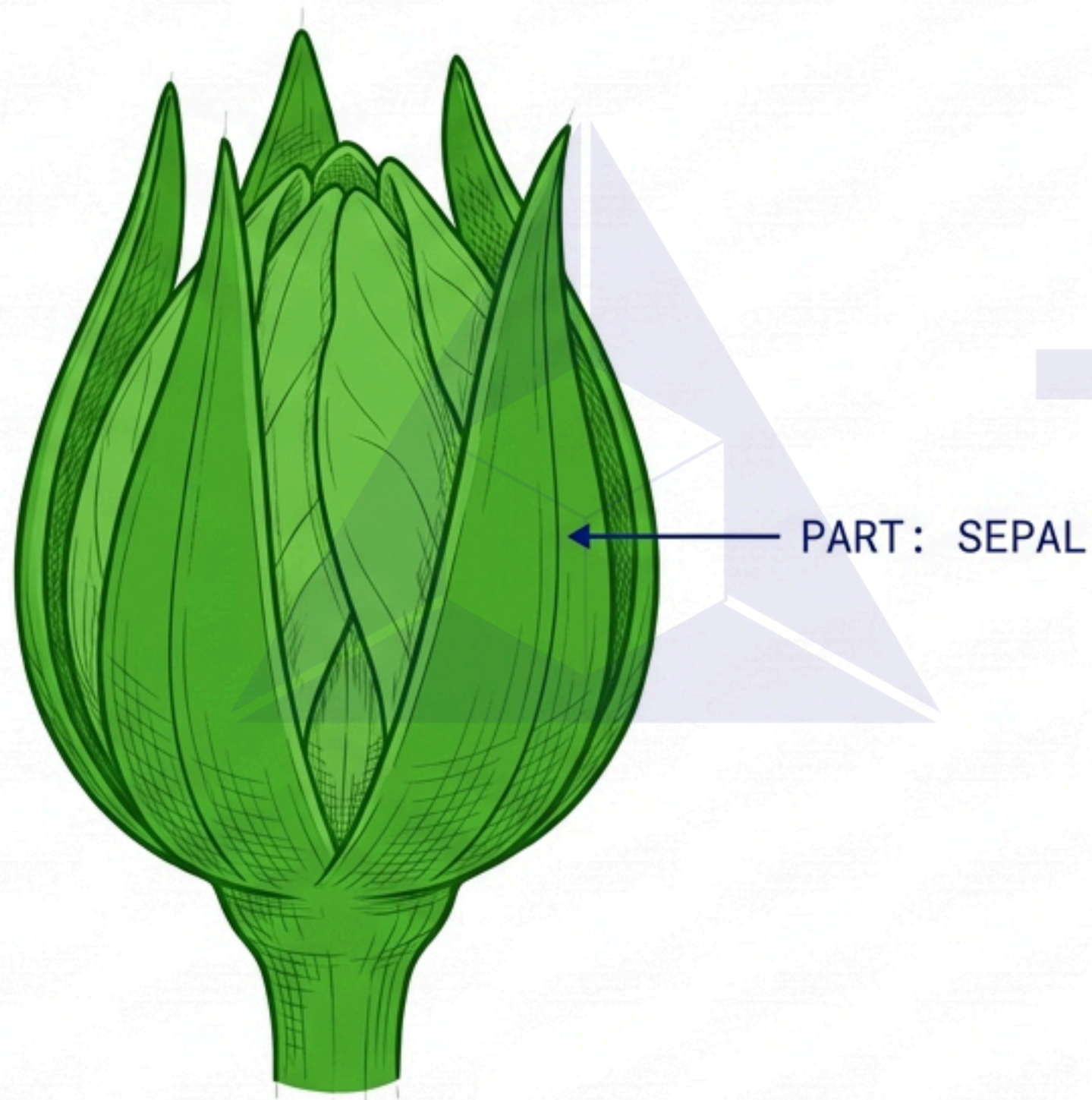
THE PROTECTIVE OUTER WHORL

An anatomical overview of the
Calyx in angiosperms.



Focus: Form,
Function & Variation

Form & Function: The Sepal



Composition

- The Calyx is the absolute outermost whorl of a flower.
- Its individual structural units are called sepals.
- Physically, they are predominantly green and mimic the appearance of small leaves.

Primary Role

- The primary biological function of the calyx is protection.
- It shields the delicate inner reproductive and accessory organs (corolla, androecium, gynoecium) before the flower blooms.

NOTE: The critical vulnerability of a flower is during its undeveloped bud stage.



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$$E=mc^2$$



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Calyx Architecture: Fusion vs. Freedom

TYPE: GAMOSEPALOUS



Sepals are united or fused together.

TYPE: POLYSEPALOUS



Sepals remain entirely free and distinct.

KEY INSIGHT: The degree of sepal fusion is a critical diagnostic feature used in plant taxonomy and classification.

Contextualizing the Whorls (Fig 5.10)

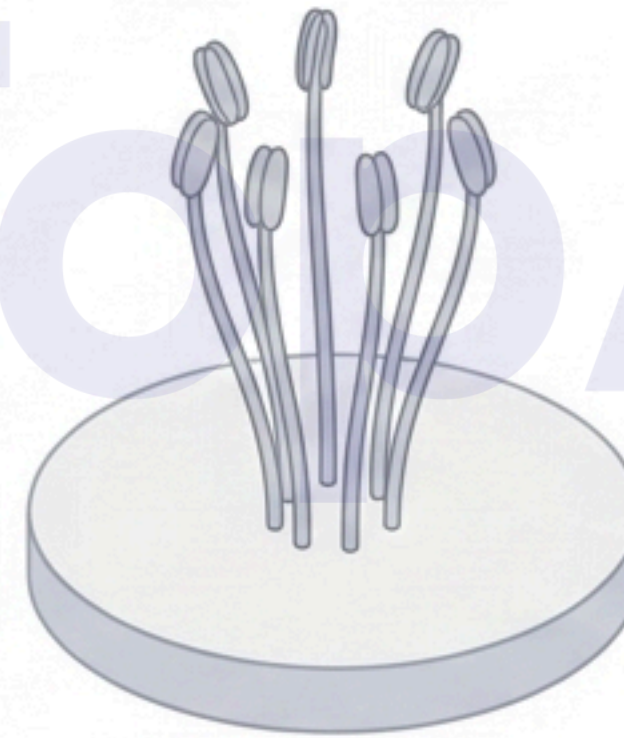
OUTERMOST WHORL:
Focus of this module.



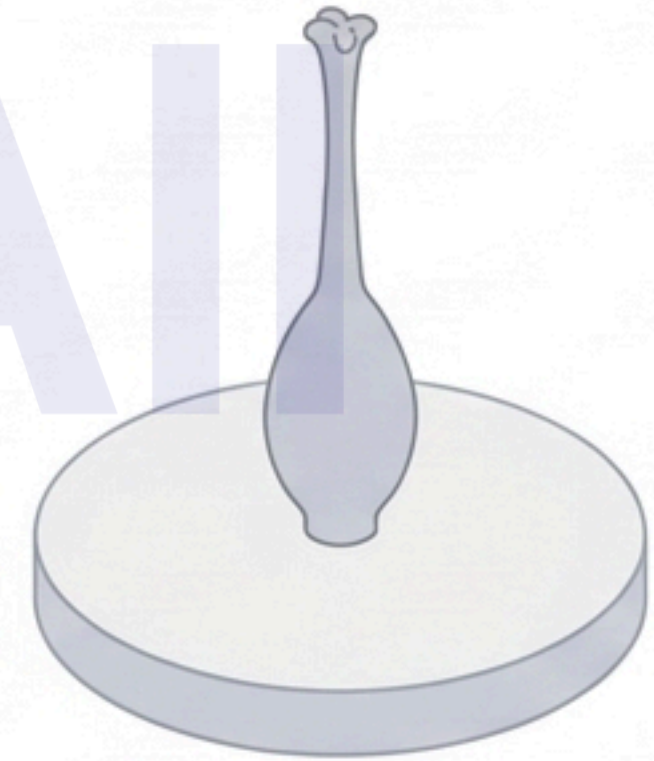
01_CALYX



02_COROLLA



03_ANDROECIUM



04_GYNOECIUM

Anatomy of the Calyx: Synthesized



Position

Outermost floral whorl.



Role

Sepal-based bud protection.



Variation

Gamosepalous vs. Polysepalous.



SUMMARY COMPLETE: The Calyx is the flower's first line of defense.



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