

Appendix 2.3: Linnaeus's "Key of the Sexual System" and "Characters of Classes," from *A System of Vegetables* (1783) and *The Families of Plants* (1787)

These tables appear in both of the translations of Linnaeus by ED as part of the Botanical Society at Lichfield:

A System of Vegetables. Vol. 1. Lichfield: Printed by John Jackson for Leigh and Sotheby, London, 1783, pp. 22–5.

The Families of Plants. Vol. 1. Lichfield: Printed by John Jackson, Sold by J. Johnson, London, T. Byrne, Dublin, and J. Balfour, Edinburgh, 1787, pp. lxxxvii–lxxx.

KEY OF THE SEXUAL SYSTEM.

MARRIAGES OF PLANTS.

Florescence.

- { *PUBLIC MARRIAGES.*
- { *Flowers visible to every one.*
- { { IN ONE BED.
- { { Husband and wife have the same bed.
- { { *All the flowers hermaphrodite: stamens and pistils in the same flower.*
- { { { WITHOUT AFFINITY.
- { { { Husbands not related to each other.
- { { { *Stamens not joined together in any part.*
- { { { { WITH EQUALITY.
- { { { { All the males of equal rank.
- { { { { *Stamens have no determinate proportion of length.*
- { { { { | 1. ONE MALE. | 7. SEVEN MALES.
- { { { { | 2. TWO MALES. | 8. EIGHT MALES.
- { { { { | 3. THREE MALES. | 9. NINE MALES.
- { { { { | 4. FOUR MALES. | 10. TEN MALES.
- { { { { | 5. FIVE MALES. | 11. TWELVE MALES.
- { { { { | 6. SIX MALES. | 12. TWENTY MALES.
- { { { { | 13. MANY MALES.
- { { { { WITH SUBORDINATION
- { { { { Some males above others.
- { { { { *Two stamens are always lower than the others.*
- { { { { 14. TWO POWERS. | 15. FOUR POWERS.
- { { { { WITH AFFINITY
- { { { { Husbands related to each other.
- { { { { *Stamens cohere with each other, or with the pistil.*
- { { { { | 16. ONE BROTHERHOOD. | 19. CONFEDERATE MALES.
- { { { { | 17. TWO BROTHERHOODS. | 20. FEMININE
- { { { { | 18. MANY BROTHERHOODS. |

{ { MALES.
{ { IN TWO BEDS.
{ Husband and wife have separate beds.
{ *Male flowers and female flowers in the same species.*
{ | 21. ONE HOUSE. | 23. POLYGAMIES.
{ | 22. TWO HOUSES.
{ CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES.
Flowers scarce visible to the naked eye.
24. CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES.

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CHARACTERS OF CLASSES.

I. ONE MALE.

One husband in marriage.
One stamen in an hermaphrodite flower.

II. TWO MALES.

Two husbands in the same marriage.
Two stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.

III. THREE MALES.

Three husbands in the same marriage.
Three stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.

IV. FOUR MALES.

Four husbands in the same marriage.
Four stamens in the same flower with the fruit.
(if the two nearest stamens are shorter, it is referred to Class 14.)

V. FIVE MALES.

Five husbands in the same marriage.
Five stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.

VI. SIX MALES.

Six husbands in the same marriage.
Six stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.
(if the two opposite stamens are shorter, it belongs to Class 15.)

VII. SEVEN MALES.

Seven husbands in the same marriage.
Seven stamens in the same flower with the pistil.

VIII. EIGHT MALES.

Eight husbands in the same marriage.
Eight stamens in the same flower with the pistil.

IX. NINE MALES.

Nine husbands in the same marriage.
Nine stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.

X. TEN MALES.

Ten husbands in the same marriage.
Ten stamens in an hermaphrodite flower.

XI. TWELVE MALES.

Twelve husbands in the same marriage.

Twelve stamens to nineteen in an hermaphrodite flower.

XII. TWENTY MALES.

Generally twenty husbands, often more.

Stamens inserted on the calyx (not on the receptacle) in an hermaphrodite flower.

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XIII. MANY MALES.

Twenty males or more in the same marriage.

Stamens inserted on the receptacle, from 20 to 1000 in the same flower with the pistil.

XIV. TWO POWERS.

Four husbands, two taller than the other two.

Four stamens: of which the two nearest are longer.

XV. FOUR POWERS.

Six husbands, of which four are taller.

Six stamens: of which four are longer, and the two opposite ones shorter.

XVI. ONE BROTHERHOOD.

Husbands, like brothers, arise from one base.

Stamens are united by their filaments into one body.

XVII. TWO BROTHERHOODS.

Husbands arise from two bases, as if from two mothers.

Stamens are united by their filaments into two bodies.

XVIII. MANY BROTHERHOODS.

Husbands arise from more than two mothers.

Stamens are united by their filaments into three or more bodies.

XIX. CONFEDERATE MALES.

Husbands joined together at the top.

Stamens are connected by the anthers forming a cylinder (seldom by the filaments.)

XX. FEMININE MALES.

Husbands and wives growing together.

Stamens are inserted on the pistils, (not on the receptacle.)

XXI. ONE HOUSE.

Husbands live with their wives in the same house, but have different beds.

Male flowers and female flowers are on the same plant.

XXII. TWO HOUSES.

Husbands and wives have different houses.

Male flowers and female flowers are on different plants.

XXIII. POLYGAMIES.

Husbands live with wives and concubines.

Hermaphrodite flowers, and male ones, or female ones in the same species.

XXIV. CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES.

Nuptials are celebrated privately.

Flowers concealed within the fruit, or in some irregular manner.

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ORDERS are taken from the Females or Pistils, as classes from the Males or Stamens; but in the class of Connected Males the Orders differ from others, as in

ONE FEMALE, Two Females, Three Females, &c. according to the number of Pistils.

The number of the pistil is reckoned from the Base of the style; but if there is no style, the calculation is made from the number of Stigmas.

EQUAL POLYGAMY, consists of many marriages with promiscuous intercourse.

That is of many florets furnished with stamens and pistils,

The flowers of these are vulgarly called Flosculous.

SPURIOUS POLYGAMY, where the beds of the married occupy the disk, and those of the concubines the circumference.

That is, the hermaphrodite florets occupy the disk, and the female florets without stamens surround the border, and that in three manners:

- (a) SUPERFLUOUS POLYGAMY, when the married females are fertile, and thence the concubines superfluous.

That is, when the hermaphrodite flowers of the disk are furnished with stigmas, and produce seeds; and the female flowers also, which constitute the circumference, produce seeds likewise.

- (b) FRUSTRANEIOUS POLYGAMY, when the married females are fertile, and the Concubines barren.

That is, when the hermaphrodite flowers of the disk are furnished with a stigma, and produce seeds; but the florets which constitute the circumference, having no stigma produce no seeds.

- (c) NECESSARY POLYGAMY, when the married females are barren, and the concubines fertile.

That is, when the hermaphrodite flowers from defect of the stigma of the pistil, produce no seed; but the female flowers in the circumference produce perfect seeds.

- (e) SEPARATE POLYGAMY, when many beds are so united that they constitute one common bed.

That is, when many flower-bearing calyxes are contained in one common calyx, so as to constitute one flower.