

Perianth:

Tepals 6, in two whorls of each, outer 3 tepals (representing calyx) green; inner 3 tepals coloured (representing corolla), dissimilar-the 2 lateral or wings like, the third posterior tepals is lightly modified often projected basally the labellum or lip; broad, shoe-like spurred, tubular, strap-shaped or butterfly shaped or variously branched and contributing most to the oddity and beauty of the flower.

The labellum is actually posterior it comes to lie on the anterior side of the flower due to twisting (or resupination) of the inferior ovary through 180° or by the bending back of pedicel over the apex of the stem.

Androecium:

Stamens 3, which unite with the pistil to form a column, the gynandrium or gynostemium opposite to the labellum; functional stamen (Orchis) or 2 (Cypripedium), bithecous, introrse; pollen granular or coherent in each cell into one, 2 or 4 stalked pollen masses or pollinia.

A connection between ovary and stamen is made by the beak-like sterile stigma; occupying almost the centre of the column. Sometimes staminodes are also present.