



Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family

Family Features

- Mostly herbs
- Usually actinomorphic flower
- Leaves mostly palmately lobed
- Alternate leaves, no stipules
- Many stamens
- Most have many free carpels
- Superior ovary
- Petals often reduced to nectaries
- Sepals mostly petaloid
- Clematis is unusual in being a woody climber and having opposite leaves

Plants where apparent petals are sepals

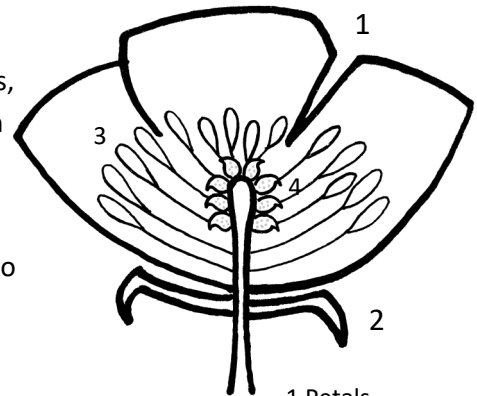
- Wood anemone
- Traveller's Joy
- Green Hellebore
- Marsh Marigold
- Globeflower

Example species

Ranunculus repens – Creeping buttercup

In British and Irish flora, *Ranunculus* is one of only a few genera that doesn't have petaloid sepals, making it unusual in the family .

Ranunculus repens has a perianth in two distinct whorls of five petals and five sepals. It has many stamens and many carpels. The fruit are achenes.



- 1 Petals
- 2 Sepals
- 3 Stamen
- 4 Carpels

Eranthis hyemalis

Winter Aconite

Most genera in Ranunculaceae have petaloid sepals, meaning they look like petals. The example here shows a larger whorl of sepals and an inner whorl of reduced petals forming tubular nectaries.

