



# Apiaceae – Carrot Family

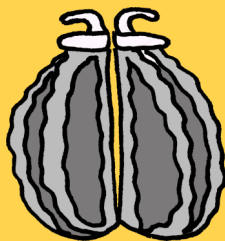
## Family Features

A family recognised for its compound umbels.

- Alternate leaves often sheathing the stem at their base
- Five separate petals. These can be either regular or irregular
- Reduced sepals
- Five stamens
- Two stigmas
- Inferior ovary
- Two carpels
- Mostly pinnate leaves often by several times

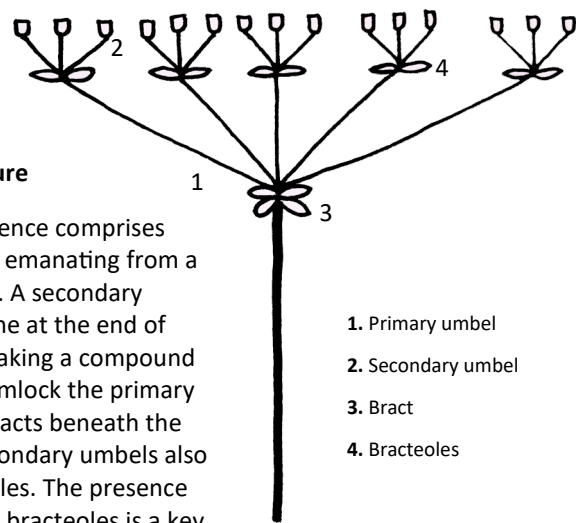
## Fruit

The fruit is made from two sections called mericarps. These separate from each other along a central axis at maturity. Each mericarp contains a single seed.



Example species

## *Conium maculatum* – Hemlock



### Floral structure

The inflorescence comprises multiple rays emanating from a central point. A secondary umbel is borne at the end of these rays making a compound umbel. In Hemlock the primary umbel has bracts beneath the rays. The secondary umbels also have bracteoles. The presence of bracts and bracteoles is a key identification feature.

1. Primary umbel
2. Secondary umbel
3. Bract
4. Bracteoles

## Leaf structure

Many members of the Apiaceae family have pinnate leaves. This is where the leaf structure is divided to a central axis or lateral rib.

