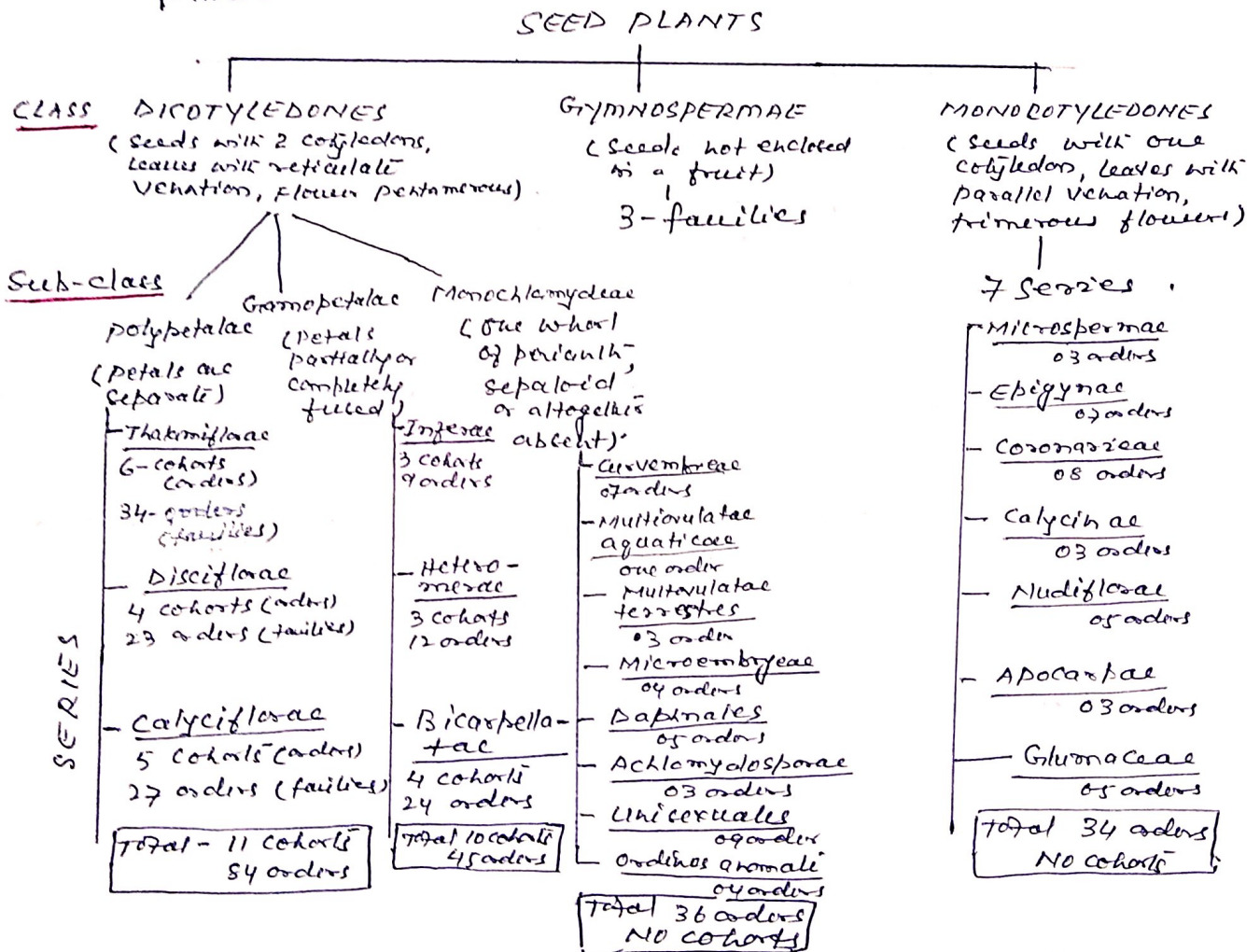


# SALIENT FEATURES OF BENTHAM & HOOKER SYSTEM

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- The system was given by George Bentham (1800-1884) and Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911).
- The system was published in Genera Plantarum in three volumes between 1862-1883.
- This is the most accomplished NATURAL SYSTEM and widely accepted in England and other Commonwealth countries.
- It comprises the description of all the genera of seed plants known at that time.
- It contains the descriptions of 7569 genera and 97,205 species which are included under 202 families (originally described as orders).
- The seed plants or phanerogams were divided into three classes — Dicotyledones, Gymnospermae and Monocotyledones. A brief outline of the classification is as follows —



- Number of families under different classes -

Dicotyledones - 165

Gymnosperms - 03

Monocotyledones - 34

total - 202 - families  
(orders)

- So there are 202 orders (families) under the system. Originally, however, there were 200 orders, later 02 were added to become 202. In the classification order are used for families and cohorts for order.

### MERITS AND DEMERITS

#### MERITS

1. The system is easy to follow and has great practical value.
2. The system is based on a careful and comparative examination of the specimen, thus not a mere compilation work.
3. Gymnosperms were treated as a separate group, and not included in dicots as was done by earlier taxonomists.
4. Dicotyledones were placed before the monocotyledones, a position approved by many present day authors.
5. The system was a refinement over the previously well known systems, such as those of de Candolle's system.

#### DEMERITS

1. The system does not incorporate phylogeny, although it was published after the Darwin's theory of evolution.
2. The position of Gymnosperms between Dicotyledones and monocotyledones is not appropriate. Gymnosperms are now placed before dicots.
3. Monocotyledones is an unnatural assemblage of taxa. Many closely related families are separated apart because of the creation of their sub-classes.
4. The placement of Orchidaceae in the begonia is not proper, as it is considered an advanced family.
5. Orderes anomali is a tentative grouping of families.