

Introduction

✍ Stems function as:

Supportive organs: Elevate photosynthetic leaves and reproductive flowers.

Conductive organs: Transport water, minerals, and sugars via vascular tissues.

✍ Features distinguishing stems from roots and leaves:

Nodes, internodes, and axillary buds.

Shoot = Stem + Associated leaves

Modifications of Stems

✍ Stem modifications adapt plants for:

Photosynthesis.

Food storage.

Asexual reproduction.

Defense.

A. Aerial Modifications

1. Flattened, green stem resembling leaves. Bears scale leaves for photosynthesis. Example: Opuntia. Phylloclade



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