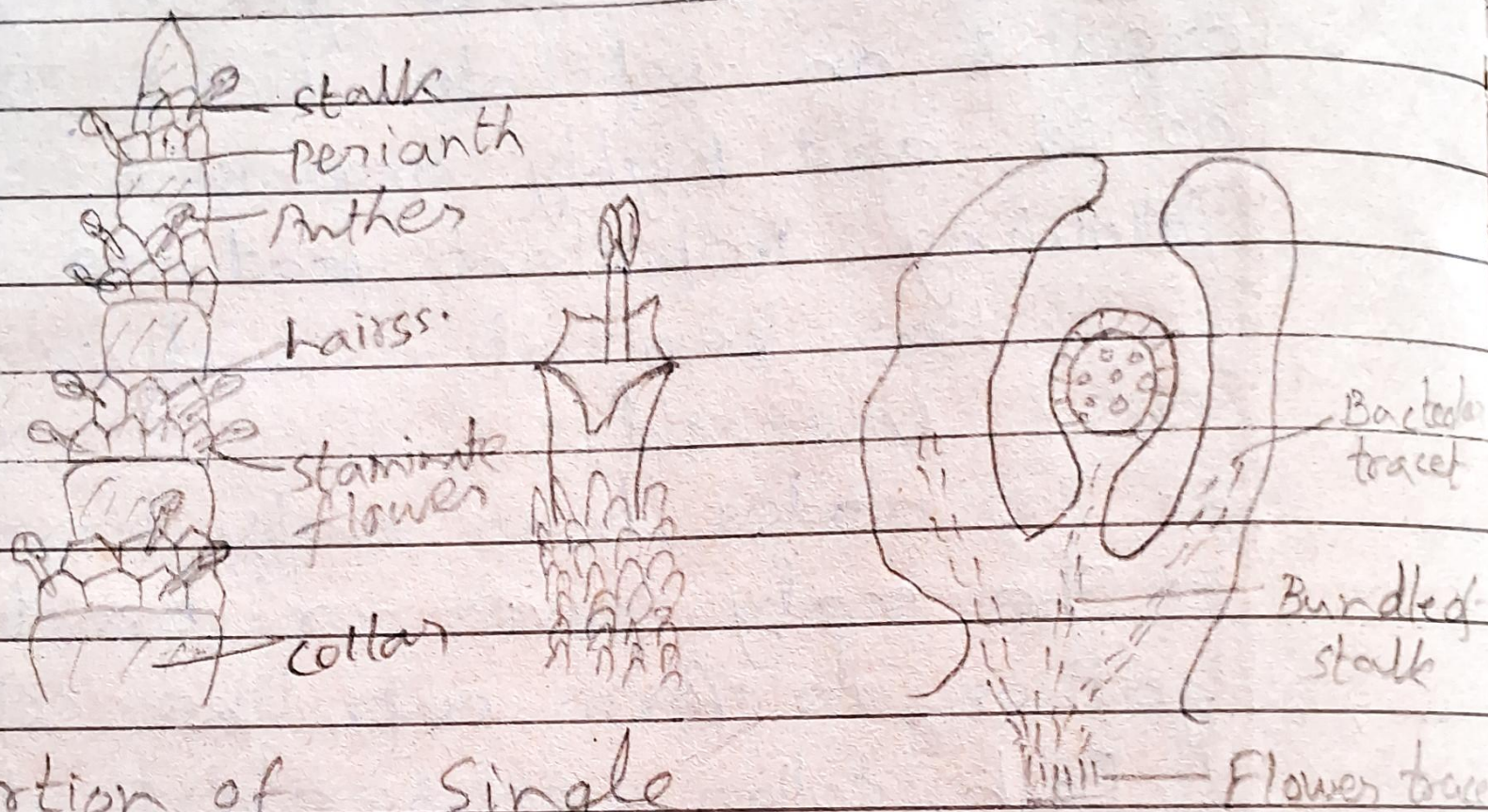


MALE CONE OF GNETUM →

The sporophyte of Gnetum is dioecious. It bears male and female reproductive organs on separate plant. The male cones are highly organised showing the following important features

1. It has central axis divided into nodes and internodes.
2. The nodes bear scaly leaves in whorl.
3. The scaly leaves or bracts fuse together to form cup like collar or capsule.
4. Each collar bears above it 3 to 6 rings of male flowers.
5. The male flowers in the rings alternate with each other. There are 3 to 6 male flower in a ring.
6. Laticiferous tubes are also present in the collar and the axis.
7. Each male flower is inclosed by a sheath like perianth.
8. The male flowers remain inclosed inside the perianth. But at maturity the stalks elongate to project the male flowers.
9. The male flowers are interspersed with uniseriate and multicellular hairs.
10. Male flowers are monothicous, each has a microsporangium containing several microspores.
11. Several abnormal condition have

been reported in male flowers. Such as the presence of abortive ovules and sterile stamens.



A portion of Male strobilus Single male flower L.S. of male flower