



Ghent University Botanical Garden

Azara Ruiz. & Pav. (Salicaceae)

VEGETATIVE KEY TO SPECIES IN CULTIVATION

Jan De Langhe

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Vegetative identification key.

Introduction:

This key is based on vegetative characteristics, and therefore also of use when flowers and fruits are absent.

- Use a 10x hand lens to check leaf margin incisions and pubescence in general.
- Look at the entire plant. Avoid young specimens, shade- and strong shoots as these give an atypical view.
- Beware of hybridisation, especially with plants raised from seed other than wild origin.

Taxa treated in this key: see page 2.

Taxa referred to synonymy in this key: see page 2.

References:

- JDL herbarium
- living specimens, in various arboreta, botanic gardens and collections
- literature:

Bean, W.J. & Clarke, D.L. - (1976) - *Azara* in Bean's Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles, VOL.1, p.360-364. - and [online edition](#)
Krüssmann, G. - (1976) - *Azara* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze, VOL.1, p.196-197.
Rodríguez, R.R., Matthei, S.O. & Quezada, M.M. - (1983) - *Azara* in Flora Arborea de Chile, p.76-80 and p. 343-344.
Reiche, C. - (1896-1911) - *Azara* in Flora de Chile, VOL.1-part 2, p.129-135.
RHS - (2014) - *Azara* in The Hillier Manual of Trees & Shrubs, p.36.

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[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)

- 01 a Mature lamina entire, OR with ≤ 6 teeth/side (10 \times LENS!!!). 02
 b Mature lamina dentate (sometimes minutely!) with 6-15 teeth/side (10 \times LENS!!!). 06
- 02 a Lamina midvein length predominantly $< 3,5$ cm. 03
 b Lamina midvein length predominantly 3,5-9 cm. 04
- 03 a Shrub or small tree, 3-8 m. Lamina midvein/secondary vein angle $> 45^\circ$ *A. microphylla*
 b Shrub, < 1 m. Lamina midvein/secondary vein angle $< 30^\circ$ *A. alpina*
- 04 a Petiole (10-)15-30 mm long. Lamina predominantly +/- distantly dentate. *A. petiolaris*
 b Petiole 7-11 mm long. Lamina predominantly entire. 05
- 05 a Current year shoot glabrous (10 \times LENS). Lamina midvein length 6-9 cm. *A. uruguayensis*
 b Current year shoot pubescent (10 \times LENS). Lamina midvein length predominantly ≤ 6 cm.
 *A. integrifolia*
- 06 a Lamina lanceolate, L/W ratio: 5/1-3/1. *A. lanceolata*
 b Lamina elliptic, obovate or ovate, L/W ratio 3/1-2/1 or $< 2/1$ 07
- 07 a Lamina secondary veins predominantly 2-4/side. *A. celastrina*
 b Lamina secondary veins predominantly 4-8/side. 08
- 08 a Current year shoot glabrous (10 \times LENS). *A. petiolaris*
 b Current year shoot minutely to densely pubescent (10 \times LENS). 09
- 09 a Lamina thin, LS secondary veins scarcely raised. *A. serrata*
 b Lamina thick, LS secondary veins prominently raised - clearly noticeable by touch.
 *A. dentata*

Taxa treated in this identification key.

A. alpina
A. celastrina
A. dentata
A. integrifolia
A. lanceolata

A. microphylla
A. petiolaris
A. serrata
A. uruguayensis

Taxa referred to synonymy in this identification key.

A. gilliesii = *A. petiolaris*
A. paraguayensis = *A. serrata* 'Maurice Mason'

A. valdiviae = *A. microphylla*

