Actinidiaceae

Actinidia Lindl.
Clematoclethra (Franch.) Maxim.

VEGETATIVE KEY TO SPECIES IN CULTIVATION

Jan De Langhe
(16 June 2010 - 31 January 2019)
Vegetative identification key.

Introduction:

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

- Use a 10× hand lens to check pubescence, leaf margin incisions and venation.
- Look at the entire plant
- Beware of hybridisation, especially with plants raised from seed other than wild origin.

Abbreviations used in this key:
- **L/W** = length/width
- **LS** = lower surface
- **US** = upper surface

Taxa treated in this key: → page 3.
Taxa referred to synonymy in this key: → page 3.

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

Krüssmann, G. - (1976) - *Actinidia* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze 1, p.115-120.

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Arboretum Wespelaar

- 1 -
01 a Bud in leaf axil clearly visible. genus Clematoclethra .................................................. C. scandens
   b Bud in leaf axil covered by petiole base. genus Actinidia .................................................. 02
02 a Lamina irregularly variegated, at least in part of the foliage. .............................................. 03
   b Lamina not variegated. ............................................................................................................. 05
03 a Lamina L/W ratio >2/1. ............................................................................................................ 03
   b Lamina L/W ratio <2/1. ............................................................................................................ 04
04 a Lamina base predominantly rounded to cordate. ................................................................. A. kolomikta
   b Lamina base predominantly broadly cuneate to rounded. .................................................... A. polygama
05 a Lamina L/W ratio predominantly ≥2/1. .......................................................... A. tetramer var. maloides
   b Lamina L/W ratio predominantly <2/1. .................................................................................. 06
06 a Shoot and petiole densely rusty pubescent (10× LENS). ................................................. A. hemslyana
   b Shoot and petiole glabrous to minutely pubescent. .............................................................. 07
07 a Lamina rather thick leathery AND petiole ≤3 cm. ............................................................... A. rubrica var. coriacea
   b Lamina rather thin papery, OR petiole length variable: 1-5 cm. ........................................... 08
08 a Lamina LS with pubescent domatia (10× LENS). .......................................................... A. rubrica Hort.
   b Lamina LS without pubescent domatia. .................................................................................. A. chrysanth
09 a Lamina margin with <20 (bristly) teeth/side (10× LENS). ...................................................... A. macrosperma
   b Lamina margin with 20-numerous (bristly) teeth/side, at least in part of the foliage. ...... 10
10 a Shoot and petiole bristly pubescent with long spreading reddish hairs. .................... A. strigosa
   b Shoot and petiole glabrous to pubescent with +/- appressed, or short, or whitish or brownish hairs. .......................................................... 11
11 a Mature leaf with lamina US lustrous. .......................................................... A. rufa
   b Mature leaf with lamina US dull. .......................................................................................... 12
12 a Lamina LS glaucous AND base broadly cuneate to rounded. .................. A. melanandra
   b Lamina LS greenish, OR base cordate or rounded to cordate. ............................................... 13
13 a Lamina LS with transverse veinlets thin and not elevated (10× LENS). ........ A. arguta
   b Lamina LS with transverse veinlets thick and elevated. ...................................................... 14
14 a Shoot clearly bristly pubescent with long spreading hairs (10× LENS). ........ A. setosa
   b Shoot +/- pubescent, predominantly with short often appressed hairs. ............................ 15
15 a Young shoots and petiole rusty pubescent (10× LENS). .................................................... A. deliciosa
   b Young shoots and petiole whitish to pale yellowish brown pubescent. ................ A. chinensis
### Taxa treated in this identification key.

| Actinidia arguta                          | Actinidia rubricaulis var. coriacea  |
| Actinidia chinensis                      | Actinidia rubricaulis Hort.          |
| Actinidia chrysantha                     | Actinidia rutiflora                  |
| Actinidia delicosa                       | Actinidia setosa                     |
| Actinidia hemadyana                      | Actinidia strigosa                   |
| Actinidia kolomikta                      | Actinidia tetramer var. maloides     |
| Actinidia macroasperma                   | Clematoclethra scandens              |
| Actinidia melanandra                     |                                        |
| Actinidia polygama                       |                                        |

### Taxa referred to synonymy in this identification key.

*A. pilosula* = *A. tetramer var. maloides*