Hedera L. (Araliaceae)

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 10× hand lens to check pubescence in general.
- Preferably check the juvenile leaves of 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

**Taxa treated in this key:** → p2.

**References:**

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


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**Arboretum Wespelaar**

- 1 -
01  a  Juvenile leaves with lamina predominantly 0-3 lobed (rarely 5-lobed).  ........................................ 02
   b  Juvenile leaves with lamina predominantly 3-7 lobed (rarely unlobed).  .................................... 07
02  a  Lamina midvein/basal secondary vein angle <45°. ................................................................. 03
   b  Lamina midvein/basal secondary vein angle at least in part of the foliage ≥45°. ................. 04
03  a  Petiole thick Ø ≥2 mm. Largest lamina midvein length 15-20 cm. .................. H. colchica
   b  Petiole thin Ø +/- 1 mm. Largest lamina midvein length <15 cm. ......................... H. nepalensis
04  a  Lamina L/W ratio at least in part of the foliage ≥2/1. ......................................................... 05
   b  Lamina L/W ratio predominantly +/- 1/1. .............................................................. H. pastuchovii
05  a  Lamina base deeply cordate. .............................................................. H. canariensis
   b  Lamina base truncate to cordate. .......................................................................................... 06
06  a  Lamina midvein length 7-16 cm. ................................................................. H. algeriensis
   b  Lamina midvein length ≤8 cm. .............................................................. H. rhombea
07  a  Plant with clearly long-armed stellate hairs (10× LENS). ............................................... 08
   b  Plant with short-armed scale-like hairs (10× LENS). ....................................................... 10
08  a  Stellate hairs on shoot with arms appressed (10× LENS). ...................... H. hibernica
   b  Stellate hairs on shoot with arms spreading to erect (10× LENS). .............................. 09
09  a  Lamina supple, upper lateral lobe secondary vein/midvein angle 45°-90°. ........ H. helix
   b  Lamina thick and leathery, upper lateral lobe secondary vein/midvein angle ≤45°. ................................. H. azorica
10  a  Shoot and petiole predominantly purplish red. .................................................. H. maroccana
   b  Shoot green or brownish, petiole green to red. ................................................................. 11
11  a  Lamina terminal lobe predominantly clearly wider than long. .................. H. maderensis
   b  Lamina terminal lobe predominantly longer than wide. ................................. H. iberica

Taxa treated in this identification key.

H. algeriensis  H. azorica
H. canariensis  H. colchica
H. helix  H. hibernica
H. hibernica  H. helix
H. maroccana  H. maderensis
H. maderensis  H. pastuchovii
H. pastuchovii  H. rhombea
H. rhombea