



Ghent University Botanical Garden

Hedera L. (Araliaceae)

VEGETATIVE KEY TO SPECIES IN CULTIVATION

Jan De Langhe

(13 May 2016 - 19 May 2018)

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 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:

- **LW** = length/width

Taxa treated in this key: → p2.

References:

- JDL herbarium and [illustrations](#)
- living specimens, in various arboreta, botanic gardens and collections
- literature:

Bean, W.J. & Clarke, D.L. - (1981) - *Hedera* in Bean's Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles 2, p.352-360. - and [Trees and Shrubs Online](#)
McAllister, H. & Marshall, R. - (2017) - *Hedera* in *Hedera* the complete guide, 429p.
Xiang, Q., Lowry, P.P. - (2007) - *Hedera* in Flora of China 13, p.441-442. - and [online edition](#)
Krüssmann, G. - (1977) - *Hedera* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze 2, p.137-143.

Acknowledgments:

I am particularly grateful to Timothy Baxter, Wolfgang Bopp, Barry Clarke, Paul Goetghebeur, David Jewell, Rosalyn Marshall, Hugh McAllister, Kevin McGinn, Charles Shine and Rolf Zumbunn for extra help with constructive comments and specimens. Also thanks to the responsible persons of various arboreta, botanic gardens and collections where I could collect herbarium specimens since 1982.

My explicit thanks for support goes to Arboretum Wespelaar, Ghent University Botanical Garden, Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, Ness Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Royal Horticultural Society Garden Wisley.

Copyright © 2018 **Jan De Langhe**

Non-commercial use authorized with mentioning "Jan De Langhe - Ghent University Botanical Garden".

[Plantentuin Universiteit Gent](#)

[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)

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(more) cm.	<i>H. colchica</i>
b	Petiole thin Ø +/- 1 mm. Largest lamina midvein length <15 cm.	<i>H. nepalensis</i>
04 a	Lamina L/W ratio at least in part of the foliage ≥2/1.	<i>H. pastuchovii</i>
b	Lamina L/W ratio predominantly +/- 1/1.	05
05 a	Lamina base deeply cordate.	<i>H. canariensis</i>
b	Lamina base truncate to cordate.	06
06 a	Lamina midvein length 7-16 cm.	<i>H. algeriensis</i>
b	Lamina midvein length ≤8 cm.	<i>H. rhombea</i>
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).	<i>H. hibernica</i>
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°.	<i>H. helix</i>
b	Lamina thick and leathery, upper lateral lobe secondary vein/midvein angle ≤45°.	<i>H. azorica</i>
10 a	Shoot and petiole predominantly purplish red.	<i>H. maroccana</i>
b	Shoot green or brownish, petiole green to red.	11
11 a	Lamina terminal lobe predominantly clearly wider than long.	<i>H. maderensis</i>
b	Lamina terminal lobe predominantly longer than wide.	<i>H. iberica</i>

Taxa treated in this identification key.

H. algeriensis
H. azorica
H. canariensis
H. colchica
H. helix
H. hibernica

H. iberica
H. maderensis
H. maroccana
H. nepalensis
H. pastuchovii
H. rhombea

