



Ghent University Botanical Garden

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 10x 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:

- **LW** = 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:

Bean, W.J. & Clarke, D.L. - (1980) - *Actinidia* in Bean's Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles 1, p.241-246. – and [Trees and Shrubs online](#):
Bean, W.J. & Clarke, D.L. - (1980) - *Clematoclethra* in Bean's Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles 1, p.665-666. – and [Trees and Shrubs online](#):
Debersaques, F., De Kezel, C., & Mekers, O. - (2012) - Van kiwi tot kiwibes, 131p.
Huwang, HW - (2014) - The genus *Actinidia*, a world monograph, 317p.
Krüssmann, G. - (1976) - *Actinidia* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze 1, p.115-120.
Krüssmann, G. - (1976) - *Clematoclethra* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze 1, p.382-383.
Li, HL. - (1952) - A taxonomic review of the genus *Actinidia*, J. Arnold Arb., 33, p.1-61.
Li, JQ., Li, XW, & Soejarto, DD. - (2007) - *Actinidiaceae* In Flora of China 12, p.334-360. – and [online edition](#)

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[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)

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

Taxa treated in this identification key.

Actinidia arguta
Actinidia chinensis
Actinidia chrysantha
Actinidia deliciosa
Actinidia hemsllyana
Actinidia kolomikta
Actinidia macrosperma
Actinidia melanandra
Actinidia polygama

Actinidia rubricaulis var. *coriacea*
Actinidia rubricaulis Hort.
Actinidia rufa
Actinidia setosa
Actinidia strigosa
Actinidia tetramera var. *maloides*
Clematoclethra scandens

Taxa referred to synonymy in this identification key.

A. pilosula = *A. tetramera* var. *maloides*

