



Ghent University Botanical Garden

*Meliosma* Blume (Sabiaceae)

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, pubescence and venation pattern 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.

### Abbreviations used in this key:

- **L/W** = length/width
- **LS** = lower surface
- **US** = upper surface

**Taxa treated in this key: see page 3.**

**Synonymy: see page 3.**

### References:

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

Bean, W.J. - (1981) - *Meliosma* in Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles II, p. 725-729.  
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Guo, L. & Brach, R.R. - () - *Meliosma* in Flora of China Vol. 12, p. 32-42. And [online edition](#) accessed 2022-10-31.  
Grimshaw, J. & Bayton, R. - (208) - *Meliosma* in New Trees in Cultivation, p. 516-518.  
Krüssmann, G. - (1977) - *Meliosma* in Handbuch der laubgehölze, Vol. 2, p. 316-317.  
Morales, J.F. - (2013) - Sinopsis del género *Meliosma* (Sabiaceae) en México y Centroamérica in Phytoneuron 2013-82, 86 pages.  
Rehder, A. - (1940) - *Meliosma* in Manual of cultivated trees and shrubs hardy in North America, p. 594-595.  
van Beusekom, C.F. (1971) - Revision of *Meliosma* (Sabiaceae), section *Lorenzanea* excepted, living and fossil, geography and phylogeny - in Blumea 19, No 3, p.355-529.

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**[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)**

01 a	Leaf pinnately compound. ....	02
b	Leaf simple. ....	04
02 a	Leaf length 40-70(more) cm. Leaflet LS secondary vein axils without hairy domatia (10× LENS). ....	<i>M. veitchiorum</i>
b	Leaf length 20-45 cm. Leaflet LS secondary vein axils with hairy domatia evident. ....	03
03 a	Articulation between leaf rachis and terminal petiolule evident (10× LENS). ...	<i>M. beaniana</i>
b	Articulation between leaf rachis and terminal petiolule absent. ....	<i>M. oldhamii</i>
04 a	Lamina secondary veins numerous, predominantly 15-20(more)/side, at least in part of the foliage. ....	05
b	Lamina secondary veins predominantly ≤15/side. ....	09
05 a	Lamina margin in apical half predominantly with 0-4 bristly teeth between 2 secondary veins (10× LENS). ....	<i>M. dilleniifolia</i>
b	Lamina margin in apical half predominantly without or with 0-1 bristly tooth between 2 secondary veins. ....	06
06 a	Lamina base attenuate (or cuneate to attenuate). ....	07
b	Lamina base obtuse to (broadly) cuneate, often oblique. ....	08
07 a	Lamina LS secondary vein axils with hairy domatia evident (10× LENS). ....	<i>M. cuneifolia</i>
b	Lamina LS secondary vein axils without, or in part with <u>tiny</u> hairy domatia. ....	<i>M. flexuosa</i>
08 a	Foliage US dark green. Lamina large: at least up to 36 × 15 cm, with a petiole up to 6 cm. Bark brown, exfoliating orange-yellow. ....	<i>M. aff. myriantha</i>
b	Foliage US mid-green. Lamina clearly smaller: up to 25 × 10 cm and petiole <4 cm. Bark grey brown, +/- smooth. ....	<i>M. myriantha</i>
09 a	Plant deciduous, leaves rather thin and soft. ....	10
b	Plant evergreen, leaves rather leathery and rigid. ....	12
10 a	Lamina broadly obovate, US secondary veins not or slightly impressed. ....	<i>M. parviflora</i>
b	Lamina elliptic to obovate, US secondary veins (strongly) impressed. ....	11
11 a	Lamina LS secondary vein axils with large hairy domatia evident (10× LENS). ...	<i>M. tenuis</i>
b	Lamina LS secondary vein axils without, or in part with <u>tiny</u> hairy domatia. ....	<i>M. flexuosa</i>
12 a	Petiole 2-7 cm, slender and glabrous. Lamina LS secondary vein axils without hairy domatia (10× LENS). ....	<i>M. dumicola</i>
b	Petiole clearly <2 cm, rather thick and pubescent to glabrescent. Lamina LS secondary vein axils with hairy domatia evident. ....	13
13 a	Pulvinus thickly appressed hairy. Lamina base long attenuate. ....	<i>M. yunnanensis</i>
b	Pulvinus pubescent with +/- ascending hairs. Lamina base cuneate. ....	<i>M. dentata</i>

Taxa treated in this identification key.

*M. beaniana*  
*M. cuneifolia*  
*M. dentata*  
*M. dilleniifolia*  
*M. dumicola*  
*M. flexuosa*  
*M. myriantha*

*M. aff. myriantha*  
*M. oldhamii*  
*M. parviflora*  
*M. tenuis*  
*M. yunnanensis*  
*M. veitchiorum*

Taxa referred to synonymy in this identification key (taxonomy fide [POWO](#)).

*M. dilleniifolia* subsp. *cuneifolia* = *M. cuneifolia*  
*M. dilleniifolia* subsp. *flexuosa* = *M. flexuosa*  
*M. dilleniifolia* subsp. *tenuis* = *M. tenuis*  
*M. lepidota* subsp. *dumicola* = *M. dumicola*  
*M. pendens* = *M. flexuosa*

*M. pungens* Hort. and *M. simplicifolia* subsp. *pungens* Hort.

Plants in Cornish collections under the former names, with leathery, but smaller and dentate obovate leaves belong to *M. yunnanensis*.

*M. rigida* Hort. and *M. simplicifolia* subsp. *rigida* Hort.

A plant at Tregrehan Garden, originally under the former name, with flaking bark and large leaves, resembles *M. dilleniifolia* and *M. myriantha* in foliage, it did not produce flowers yet and belongs probably to the latter fide Frits van Beusekom (pers. comments 29 October 2022).

Hence the tentative name *M. aff. myriantha*.

