



Ghent University Botanical Garden

Lindera Thunb. (Lauraceae)

VEGETATIVE KEY TO SPECIES IN CULTIVATION

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(2 October 2013 - 20 November 2017)

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 and venation pattern in general.
- 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 4](#).

Taxa referred to synonymy in this key: → [page 4](#).

References:

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

Bean, W.J. & Clarke, D.L. - (1987) - *Lindera* in Bean's Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles 3, p.577-579 and [Trees and Shrubs Online](#)
Cui, H. & van der Werff, H. - (2008) - *Lindera* in Flora of China VOL 7, p.142-159 and [online edition](#)
Krüssmann, G. - (1977) - *Lindera* in Handbuch der Laubgehölze 2, p.230-232.
RHS - (2014) - *Lindera* in The Hillier Manual of Trees & Shrubs, p.197-198.

I am particularly grateful to Anthony Aiello, Wolfgang Bopp, Thomas Clark, Dan Crowley, Francisco Garin, Paul Goetghebeur, Elinor I Goff, Tom Hudson, David Jewell, Jie Li, Xi-wen Li, Pamela Olshefski and Rolf Zumbrunn 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, Iturraran Botanic Garden, Morris Arboretum, Polly Hill Arboretum, Tregrehan Garden and Westonbirt Arboretum.

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[Plantentuin Universiteit Gent](#)

[Arboretum Wespelaar](#)

KEY TO GROUPS

Lamina predominantly strongly 3-veined at base. **Group A**

Lamina pinnately veined. **Group B → p3**

GROUP A
Lamina predominantly strongly 3-veined at base.

- 01 a Lamina LS predominantly strongly 3-veined from the very base (10× LENS: strong secondary veins form a tiny part of the margin). **02**
- b Lamina LS predominantly strongly 3-veined from a point clearly above the base (10× LENS: strong secondary veins completely separate from margin). **04**
- 02 a Lamina predominantly unlobed. ***L. praetermissa***
- b Lamina (0-2-)3-lobed. **03**
- 03 a Lamina width predominantly >length, LS glabrous (10× LENS). ***L. cercidifolia***
- b Lamina length predominantly >width, LS pubescent (10× LENS). ***L. obtusiloba***
- 04 a Lamina (0-2-)3-lobed. ***L. triloba***
- b Lamina unlobed. **05**
- 05 a Plant evergreen. **06**
- b Plant deciduous. **07**
- 06 a Lamina base rounded to broadly cuneate, LS midvein pubescent (10× LENS).
..... ***L. aggregata***
- b Lamina base cuneate, LS midvein (soon) glabrous (10× LENS). ***L. pulcherrima***
- 07 a Lamina (shallowly) cordate at base. ***L. heterophylla***
- b Lamina rounded to cuneate at base. **08**
- 08 a Lamina L/W ratio predominantly $\geq 2/1$, left and right side similar to each other.
..... ***L. rubronervia***
- b Lamina L/W ratio predominantly $\leq 2/1$, left and right side different from each other.
..... ***L. neesiana***

GROUP B
Lamina pinnately veined.

01 a	Plant evergreen.	02
b	Plant deciduous.	04
02 a	Lamina LS secondary veins 10-18/side.	<i>L. megaphylla</i>
b	Lamina LS secondary veins 5-9/side.	03
03 a	Lamina US dull, LS glabrous or pubescent with short hairs (10× LENS).	<i>L. communis</i>
b	Lamina US shiny, LS +/- densely pubescent with long hairs (10× LENS).	<i>L. nacusua</i>
04 a	Lamina predominantly oblanceolate to obovate.	05
b	Lamina predominantly lanceolate or ovate to elliptic.	07
05 a	Lamina L/W ratio +/- 2/1 at least in part of the foliage.	<i>L. benzoin</i>
b	Lamina L/W ratio predominantly 3/1-4/1.	06
06 a	Lamina US midvein glabrous.	<i>L. erythrocarpa</i>
b	Lamina US midvein pubescent (10× LENS).	<i>L. chienii</i>
07 a	Lamina L/W ratio predominantly ≥3/1.	08
b	Lamina L/W ratio predominantly ≤2/1.	10
08 a	Lamina largest width in or below the middle, apex acuminate to caudate.	<i>L. metcalfiana</i> var. <i>dictyophylla</i>
b	Lamina largest width in the middle, apex obtuse to acute (rarely acuminate).	09
09 a	Petiole ≤5 mm. Lamina rather oblong (almost parallel sided).	<i>L. angustifolia</i>
b	Petiole 5-10 mm. Lamina rather narrowly elliptic.	<i>L. erythrocarpa</i>
10 a	Shoot rather warty, lenticels obvious and raised (10× LENS).	<i>L. praecox</i>
b	Shoot rather smooth, lenticels absent or small and not raised (10× LENS).	11
11 a	Lamina LS tertiary vein pattern scarcely visible to the naked eye.	<i>L. glauca</i> var. <i>salicifolia</i>
b	Lamina LS tertiary and often quaternary vein pattern clearly visible to the naked eye. ..	12
12 a	Lamina LS secondary veins weak, not or slightly raised.	<i>L. umbellata</i>
b	Lamina LS secondary veins and often tertiary veins well developed and clearly raised.	13
13 a	Petiole predominantly ≤5 mm (strong shoots excepted).	<i>L. glauca</i>
b	Petiole 5-10(-more) mm.	14
14 a	Lamina base cuneate.	<i>L. sericea</i>
b	Lamina base rounded to cuneate.	15

- 15 a Lamina US pubescent (10× LENS). **L. melissifolia**
- b Lamina US glabrous, except glabrescent midvein (10× LENS). **L. reflexa**

Taxa treated in this identification key.

L. aggregata
L. angustifolia
L. benzoin
L. cercidifolia
L. chienii
L. communis
L. erythrocarpa
L. glauca
 - var. *salicifolia*
L. heterophylla
L. megaphylla
L. melissifolia

L. metcalfiana var. *dictyophylla*
L. nacusua
L. neesiana
L. obtusiloba
L. praecox
L. praetermissa
L. pulcherrima
L. reflexa
L. rubronervia
L. sericea
L. triloba
L. umbellata

Taxa referred to synonymy in this identification key.

L. populifolia = *Litsea populifolia*
L. salicifolia Hort. = *L. glauca* var. *salicifolia*
L. strychnifolia = *L. aggregata*

