

GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS

achene: a dry indehiscent 1-seeded fruit, from either a superior or inferior ovary of 1 carpel, with the seed not fused to the fruit wall; e.g. from a superior ovary, as in families Atherospermataceae, Urticaceae and Ranunculaceae (Fig. 13 O) or from an inferior ovary as in family Asteraceae (and usually topped by the pappus, Fig. 13 P).

actinomorphic: a regular flower; one that can be bisected symmetrically in several planes to produce similar halves, as in Lilly Pilly flowers. cf. **zygomorphic**.

acuminate: narrowed then tapering to a point, as for a leaf apex, Fig. 5 B & C. See **long-acuminate**, **short-acuminate**, **drip tip**.

acute: evenly tapered to a point, having a short sharp apex, Fig. 5 D. cf. **obtuse**.

adventitious: term describing any organ arising in an abnormal position, e.g. roots arising from the shoot system.

aerial root: an adventitious root growing from the stem above ground level.

aggregate fruit: cluster of fruits derived from a single flower in which the carpels are free, or almost so, from each other. e.g. as in many Monimiaceae, Ranunculaceae, Annonaceae, Rosaceae, Fig. 13 E-G. cf. **multiple fruit**.

alternate: of leaves inserted singly at different levels along the stem (commonly used to include spiral arrangement), Fig. 4 A & B.

angled: of an organism, such as a leaf lamina, with \pm entire or straight sides except for 1 or more sharp angles, Fig. 9 F.

apex: the tip, Fig. 5. pl. **apices**.

apiculate: with a small abrupt point.

appressed: pressed closely against another organ, e.g. of hairs on a leaf.

areolate: of surface pattern or venation, divided into many angular or squarish spaces, e.g. the venation and

surface pattern in dried specimens in many Lauraceae.

aril: an expansion of the stalk of a seed growing partly or completely over the seed, usually fleshy and often brightly coloured, as in some Sapindaceae or passionfruit, Fig. 13 U. adj. **arillate**.

aristate: having a stiff bristle-like tip, Fig. 5 A.

armed: with spines, thorns and/or prickles.

aromatic: scented, with a distinct smell when crushed, e.g. as in many species of families Rutaceae and Myrtaceae.

articulated: jointed, e.g. see **1-foliolate leaf**, Fig. 3 A.

ascending: at first spreading horizontally and then becoming erect.

asymmetric (oblique): of a leaf, leaf base or other organ, having the sides unequal, Fig. 6 F.

attenuate: narrowing gradually, Fig. 6 A.

auricles: ear-shaped lobes at or near the base of a leaf or other organ, Fig. 6 G. adj. **auriculate**.

axil: the upper angle between one part of a plant and another part, e.g. the stem and a leaf, primary and secondary veins. adj. **axillary**.

axillary bud: the bud or buds formed in the angle between the stem and a leaf or bract, Fig. 1 A & B.

axis: the central stem of a plant or an inflorescence, or the elongated part of the receptacle on which floral organs are situated.

beak: a prominent terminal projection, e.g. of a fruit.

berry: a fleshy or pulpy indehiscent fruit with 1 or more seeds, the seeds embedded in the fleshy tissue; may be formed from either a superior or an inferior ovary, Fig. 13 C & D.

bifoliolate (2-foliolate): of a compound leaf, with two leaflets, Fig. 2 J.

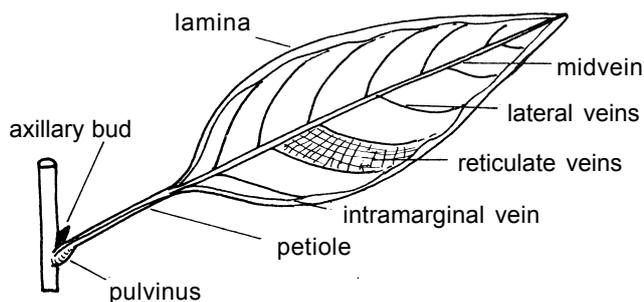
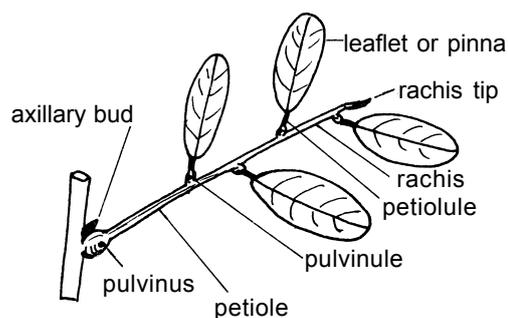


Fig. 1. A, simple leaf



B, compound leaf