

# Introduction to Botany: BIOL 154

## Lab 12. Winter trees: description key

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READ *How to make description key: very short instruction*

- (a) The goal is the creation of description key which will help in practical step-by-step determination of plant.
- (b) We need to start with determining “players”. In our case, it will be three genera:

**Alpha**

**Beta**

**Gamma**

- (c) Assess descriptions of these three groups:

**Alpha:** Flowers red, petioles short, leaves whole, spines absent

**Beta:** Flowers red, petioles long, leaves whole, spines absent

**Gamma:** Flowers green, petioles short, leaves dissected, spines present

- (d) Start with a character which let to split the list into two nearly equal groups. Then add other character(s). It is always good to use more characters!

- 1. Petioles long ..... **Beta.**
  - Petioles short ..... 2.
- 2. Flowers red, leaves whole, spines absent ..... **Alpha.**
  - Flowers green, leaves dissected, spines present ..... **Gamma.**

TAKE **Five** winter twigs of different trees, do not forget to mark their names

MAKE Using all available tools (blades, microscopes, dissectiscopes, all of your botanical knowledge), create the description key for these five trees (see examples of characters on Fig. 1).

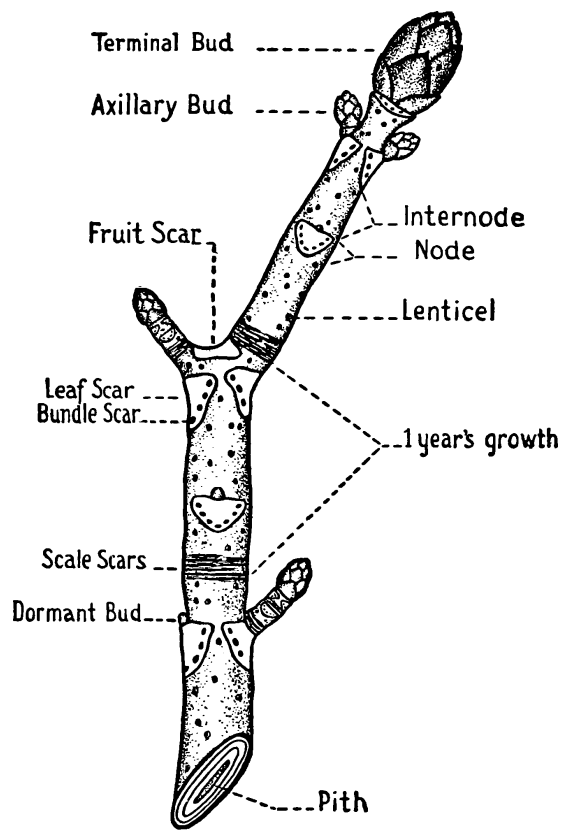


Fig. 20. Twig of Horse-chestnut.

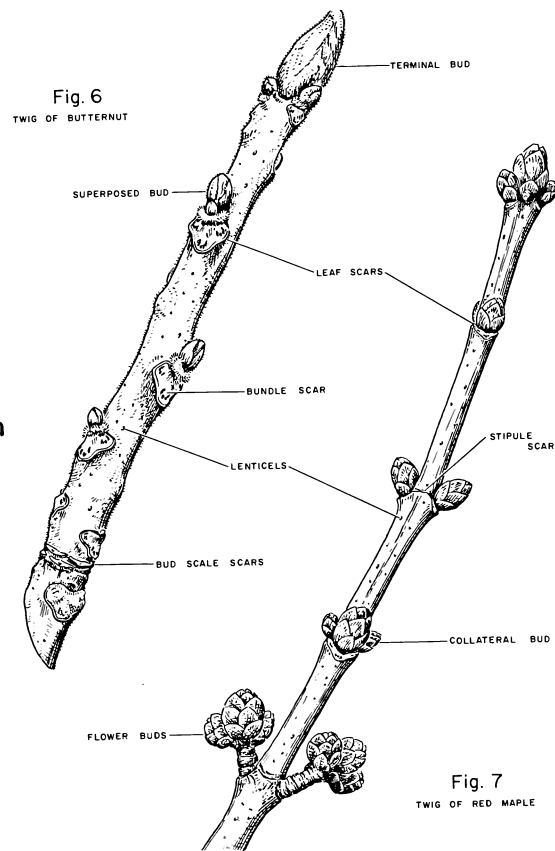


Fig. 7  
Twig of Red Maple

Figure 1. Characters useful for winter twigs (from Blakeslee, 1926 & Core, 1958).