







3. KEY TO THE GROUPS based chiefly on leaf features.

					
A. parallel veins	B. reticulate veins	C. leaves opposite	D. leaves alternate	E. compound leaf	F. simple leaf

- 1 Plants found chiefly in saline habitats such as mangroves or salt pans go to **Group 1**
- 1* Plants found in normally non-saline habitats, i.e., usually above the limits of high tide go to 2
- 2 Leaves with numerous parallel veins (see sketch A); mostly herbs, Sometimes epiphytic, **if** veins obscure, then plant is herbaceous and often epiphytic, **if woody** then veins obvious and floral parts in multiples of three, e.g., 3 sepals, 3 petals and 3 stamens go to **Group 2** (all monocots)
- 2* Leaves with reticulate venation (see sketch B - a network), **OR** if parallel, then there are 5 or fewer prominent longitudinal veins; connecting veins normally visible **OR** leafless, apparently leafless **OR** veins obscure and plant is a tree go to 3
- 3 Vines, mistletoes and other epiphytic plants go to **Group 3**
- 3* Herbs, trees or shrubs but not epiphytic or climbing or twining go to 4
- 4 Plants release a whitish or milky sap – latex (may need to squeeze the broken end – **Caution**) go to **Group 4**
- 4* Plants without milky sap go to 5
- 5 Leaves opposite (see sketch C) go to **Group 5**
- 5* Leaves alternately arranged (D) or difficult to determine go to 6
- 6 Leaves compound (E), i.e., divided into separate leaflets go to **Group 6**
- 6* Leaves simple (F) sometimes much reduced or absent; margins may be lobed, **or** even deeply dissected so as to almost be separate go to 7
- 7 Herbs or subshrubs, usually less than 1 m tall go to **Group 7**
- 7* Shrubs or trees usually more than 1.5 m tall go to **Group 8**

NOTE: In case you have a plant with borderline height, check through both groups to try and find something that fits.