

## Horticulture 202 Laboratory 3

### Key to Sansevieria<sup>1</sup>

- 1) Plant with evident upright stem, leaves arising along entire length . . . . .  
..... **S. powellii**
  
- 1) Plant without evident upright stem, leaves arising from basal clusters . . . . .  
.....(2)
  
- 2) Mature leaves cylindrical, and channeled only on younger or basal clusters. . . . . **S. cylindrica**
  
- 2) Mature leaves flattened and expanded, much wider than thick . . . . .  
..... (3)
  
- 3) Leaves not variegated or with light and dark green transverse bands on younger growth and becoming obliterated with age . . . . .  
.....(4)
  
- 4) Leaves dark green, never banded . . . . . **S. nelsonii**
  
- 4) Leaves with light and dark green transverse bands on younger growth, becoming obliterated with age . (5)
  
- 5) Leaves broad with a thin brownish-white margin and rosette like to semi-erect type growth . . . . . **S. subspicata**
  
- 5) Leaves upright, linear and much longer than wide, without brownish-white margin . . . . .(6)
  
- 6) Leaves 3-4 per growth, 1 1/16 to 2 1/2 inch broad, upper surface entirely dark green, or on younger leaves indistinctly transversely banded and under-surface paler with bands . . . . .  
..... **S. liberiensis**
  
- 6) Leaves 6-14 per growth, 1/3 to 1/6 inch broad, younger growth more distinctly horizontally banded with equally distributed bands on both surfaces . . . . .  
..... **S. parva**

- 3) Leaves conspicuously variegated with transverse or linear striations. .  
 .....(7)
- 7) Plant with basal or rosette type growth, rarely over 6-8  
 inches tall, leaves not more than 2-3 times longer than  
 wide .....(8)
- 8) Leaves green with yellow linear striations .....  
 ..... **S. trifasciata cv. Golden  
 Hahnii**
- 8) Leaves entirely light or dark green ..(9)
- 9) Leaves predominantly dark green with pale green  
 transverse bands ..... **S. trifasciata cv. Hahnii**
- 9) Leaves with much less dark green, mostly pale green  
 cross-bands to give leaf a metallic ash-green to  
 silvery color, leaves narrower and more erect .....  
 ..... **S. trifasciata cv. Silver  
 Hahnii**
- 7) Plant with ascending growth; leaves many times longer  
 than wide .....(10)
- 10) Leaves dark green with light green transverse  
 bands, with distinct longitudinal golden-yellow  
 stripes along margin .....  
 ..... **S. trifasciata var. Laurentii**
- 10) Leaves without yellow variegation .....  
 .....(11)
- 11) Leaves only transversely banded with light  
 dull green and deep grass-green bands .....  
 ..... **S. trifasciata**
- 11) Leaves in part transversely banded with light  
 and dark green, also linearly striated with  
 whitish to light green striations .....  
 ..... **S. liberica**

<sup>1</sup> Taken from: D. W. Reed. 1978. Sansevieria--Identification and Culture. Louisiana Society of Horticultural Research 14(2):30-77.