**University of Al-Mustansiriyah**

**College of Science/ Department of Biology.**

**Course : Botany**

**Lecture: 6**

**The leaves**

**Leaves** are the flat green part that grow from a plant stem and that function mainly in making food by photosynthesis.

**Parts of leaf:**

1. **leaf base:** this is the part were a leaf attaches to the stem, leaf base has two small leaf-like structure called stipules.
2. **petiole**:is the long, thin stalk that links the leaf blade to the stem.
3. **lamina:** also known as leaf blade, its green, flat surface. It consists of a small branched vein and veinlets.

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**Types of leaves:**

1. **Simple leaf:** when a single blade is connected to the main stem by a petiole (ex: cucumber leaf).
2. **Compound leaf:** is a leaf made up of two or more leaflets, her the midrib of the leaf is branched into different leaflets and is connected by a single petiole ( ex: palm leaves).



**Venation of leaves:**

* **reticulate venation:** the veinlets are randomly arranged and form a complex network of veinlets (ex: dicotyledon plants like **Rose** plant).
* **parallel venation:** the veinlets run parallel to each other. (ex: monocotyledon plants like **Cana indica** plant).

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**Phyllotaxy of leaves**: is the pattern of arrangement of leaves on the stem.

* **alternate**: a single leaf develops at each node on stem alternatively.
* **opposite**: a pair of leaves develops at each node opposite to each other.
* **whorled:** more than two leaves develop at each nodes to form a whorl of leaves.



**SPECIALIZED LEAVES**

1. **Shade Leaves**
* **Function:** an increased ability to harvest sunlight at low radiation levels.
* **Example:** ubber tree (Hevea brasiliensis).



1. **Leaves of Arid Regions**
* **Function:** thin and leathery leaves that reduce transpiration and thus the amount of water lost by leaves.
* **Example:** cactus plant.

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1. **Leaves of Aquatic Areas**
2. **Function:** 1) act as a filter strip, holding soil in place and preventing erosion, 2) The production of oxygen through photosynthesis-they oxygenate the water via plant processes.
3. **Example:** lotus, Phragmites, lily, water lettuce, and duckweed.



1. **Tendrils:**
2. **Function:** curled tightly around more rigid objects, help the plant in climbing or in supporting weak stems.
3. **Example:** Pumpkin Family, grape.

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1. **Spines, thorn:**
* **Function:** The reduction in leaf surface correspondingly reduces water loss from the plants, and the spines also tend to protect the plants from browsing animals.
* **Example:** cacti, Honey Locust.



1. **Storage Leaves**
* **Function:** water storage and nutrients.
* **Example: Aloe vera,** Desert plants, onion, lily.
1. **Flower-Pot Leaves:** leaves develop as urnlike pouches that become the symbiotic homes of ant colonies which carry soil and add nitrogenous growing medium leading to produces special roots from node of plant.
* **Function:** reproduces with the aid of ants.
* **Example:** Dischidia.

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A flower-pot leaf of *Dischidia.*

1. **Window Leaves:** leaves having transparent triangular areas.
* **Function:** increase the absorption of radiant energy, and thereby the rate of photosynthesis.
* **Example:** Carpetweed Family (Aizoaceae).

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1. **Reproductive Leaves:** produce plantlets along the margins of its leaves.
2. **Function:** Reproductive.
3. **Example:** leaves of Bryophyllum, peperomia.

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1. **Floral Leaves (Bracts):** Leaves in some species are modified to have different colors and look like petals.
2. **Function:** attract pollinators.
3. **Example:** Christmas flower



1. **Insect-Trapping Leaves (Trap leaves)**
2. **Function:** leaves are able to gather nitrogen and other nutrients from the bodies of the insects they trap.
3. **Example:** Pitcher Plants, Sundews, Venus’s Flytraps.

 

***Pitcher Plants***  ***Sundews***.

 Venus flytrap trigger hairs