



Fig. 348. Large leaf form of *Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm. (Picture by Geoff R. Nichols)

7. Glossary (from Lawrence, 1951; Beentje, 2010)

abaxial: applied to the side or surface facing away from the stem or axis (compare adaxial).

acaulescent: without an evident stem above ground level.

accrescent: increasing in size, e.g. the calyx of some plants in the fruiting stage.

achene: small dry fruit, not splitting when ripe, containing a single seed, with the seed coat free from the fruit wall.

acicular: needle-shaped, thin, cylindrical with a sharp point, meaning either a solid 3-dimensional shape, or a 2-dimensional shape.

actinomorphic: (of flowers) radially symmetrical, regular (compare zygomorphic).

acuminate: tapering gradually or abruptly from inwardly curved sides into a narrow point.

acute: pointed, the margins forming an angle of $< 90^\circ$.

adaxial: applied to the side facing the stem or axis (compare abaxial).

adnate: fused with an organ of another kind.

adpressed: lying close to and flat along the surface.

alternate: applied to leaves and other organs inserted singly at different levels along the axis.

amplexicaul: stem-clasping, as when the base of the leaf is dilated and embraces the stem.

anatropous: (of ovule) reversed, bent so that the micropyle is close to the point of attachment of the funicle.

anisophyllous: with two opposite leaves very unequal in size.

annual: plant whose life span ends within one year after germination.

annular: arranged in a circle.

anther: the part of a stamen which contains the pollen.

antherode: remnant of anther, in a staminode.

anthesis: period during which the flower is open.

apical: at the apex.

apiculate: bearing a short point.

areole: (of Cactaceae) raised or sometimes sunken cushion that represents a condensed shoot system (brachyblast) of axillary origin, bearing modified leaves (bristles, spines and/or glochidia), flowers or shoots.

aril: appendage covering or partly enclosing the seed and arising from the funicle.

arillate: bearing an aril.

arista: long bristle-like point.

aristate: bearing an arista.

ascending: growing erect after an oblique or horizontal beginning.

asperous: rough, harsh to the touch.

attenuate: tapering gradually.

axil: the angle between a leaf or bract and the axis bearing it (usually the stem).

axile: (of placentation), with ovules attached to the axis of the ovary.

axillary: arising from the axil (e.g. branches).

baccate: berry-like.

basifixed: (of anthers) attached to the filament by the base (compare dorsifixed).

berry: indehiscent simple fruit with 1–many seeds immersed in a fleshy pulp.

biennial: taking two years from seedling stage to maturity, seed-set and death.

bifid: divided at the tip in two (usually equal) parts by a median cleft, for about half the length.

bifurcate: forked or divided into two sharp branches or prongs.

bisexual: having both sexes in the same flower or inflorescence.

bladder cells: (of Aizoaceae) cells for water-storage.

brachyblast: short shoot of limited growth usually borne on a main axis.

bract: leaf-like structure, different in form from the foliage leaves and without an axillary bud, associated with an inflorescence or a flower.

bracteate: possessing or bearing bracts.

bracteole: small bract borne on the pedicel or calyx of a flower.

bristle: stiff strong hair, slender and cylindrical.

bulbiferous: bearing or producing bulbils.

bulbil: small deciduous bulb (or tuber) usually axillary, formed around the mother bulb or in the axil of a leaf, and functioning to propagate the plant vegetatively.

caducous: non-persistent, falling off early.

calyptra: cap or lid-like covering of flowers or fruits.

calyx: outer envelope of the flower, consisting of free or united sepals.

campanulate: bell-shaped, with a tube about as long as wide.

campylotropous: (of an ovule) orientated transversely (i.e. with its axis at right angles to its stalk and with a curved embryo sac).

capitate: head-like; like the head of a pin (e.g. as for stigma).

capsule: dry fruit composed of two or more united carpels and either splitting when ripe into flaps called valves or opening by slits or pores.

carpel: the basic unit of the female sexual organ in a flower, comprising the ovary with its ovules, the style and the stigma.

caruncle: outgrowth of the outer seed integument, near the hilum; usually small and fleshy and associated with animal dispersal.

carunculate: with a caruncle.

cataphyll: small scale leaf, e.g. on rhizomes of flowering plants.

caudex (*pl.* caudices): enlarged storage organ at soil level, composed of the swollen stem or root, or both.

caudiciform: formed like a caudex, enlarged or swollen.

caulescent: with an evident stem above ground.

chartaceous: papery in texture, opaque and thin.

chasmogamous: pollinated when the flower is open (compare cleistogamous)

ciliate: with a fringe of hairs along the margin.

circumscissile: opening as if cut circularly around the upper part or equator, which then comes off like a lid.

cladode: segment of a jointed, flattened stem, with the function of a leaf.

clavate: club-shaped or thickened towards the end.

cleistogamous: (self) pollination occurring when the flower is closed (compare chasmogamous).

coccus (*pl.* cocci): one of the separate parts of a lobed capsule or of a schizocarp.

cochleate: spiral, like the shell of a snail.

columella: persistent central axis around which the fruit locules are arranged.

conical: cone-shaped.

connate: united, with structures or organs of the same kind (e.g. filaments) are joined margin to margin.

connective: the part of a stamen that connects the anther locules.

connivent: applied to parts converging so as to be nearer together above than below.

cordate: applied to the base of a leaf when it is more or less deeply notched.

corolla: the inner envelope of the flower, consisting of free or united petals. This whorl is inside or above the calyx and outside the stamens.

corymb: more or less flat-topped, racemose (indeterminate) inflorescence in which the branches or the pedicels start from different points but all reach to about the same level.

crenate: the margin notched with regular blunt or rounded teeth (crenations).

cuneate: wedge-shaped and attached at the point.

cupular: cup-shaped.

cuspidate: abruptly tipped with a sharp rigid point.

cyathium (*pl.* cyathia): (of Euphorbiaceae) inflorescence resembling a single flower but consisting of an involucre of modified leaves enclosing a female flower and several male flowers.

cymbiform: boat-shaped.

cyme: determinate inflorescence in which each flower, in turn, is formed at the tip of a growing axis, and further flowers are formed on branches arising below it.

cymose: with a cyme.

cymule: small cyme or portion of one, usually few-flowered.

cystolith: process from the cell wall impregnated with calcium carbonate.

deciduous: with leaves falling off at the end of the season of growth, not evergreen.

decumbent: lying prostrate but having the tip growing upwards.

decurrent: as when the edges of the leaf are continued down the stem or petiole as raised lines or narrow wings.

decussate: in opposite pairs, with each pair at right angles to the one above and below it.

deflexed: bent abruptly downwards or outwards (compare inflexed).

dehiscent: opening spontaneously when ripe as in capsules and anthers.

deltoid: shaped \pm like an equal-sided triangle.

dentate: the margin prominently toothed, the teeth pointing outwards.

dichasia: determinate type of cymose inflorescence having a central, older flower which develops first and a pair of opposite lateral branches bearing younger flowers.

didynamous: (of stamens) in pairs of unequal length.

dimorphic: having two distinct forms or sizes.

dioecious: with unisexual flowers, the male and female flowers on separate plants.

discoid: like a plate or disc.

distal: farther from the point of attachment or origin (compare proximal).

distichous: regularly arranged one above the other in two opposite rows, one on each side of the stem.

diurnal: flowering during the day rather than at night.

divaricate: spreading wide.

dorsal: the back or outer surface, in this work referring to the upper surface of the lamina.

dorsifixed: attached at or by its back, said e.g. of an anther to the filament.

drupaceous: drupe-like, or producing fruit like a drupe.

drupe: indehiscent, fleshy fruit with the seed(s) enclosed in a stony endocarp (e.g. plum).

elaiosome: oily appendage on seeds, serving as a food-body for ants and other animals which then disperse the seed (see also strophiole).

ellipsoid: 3-dimensional shape that is elliptical in the vertical plane.

elliptic: broadest at the middle, with two equal rounded ends.

emarginate: with a distinct sharp notch at the apex.

embryotega: lid-like thickening in seed coat becoming detached on germination.

emetic: bringing on or causing the act of vomiting.

endemic: confined to a particular region or country and not native anywhere else.

endosperm: the nutritive material stored within the seed and often surrounding the embryo.

entire: with an even margin, without teeth or notches.

ephemeral: plant that completes its life cycle in less than one year, usually less than six months

epidermis: the outermost layer of cells of an organ, usually only one cell thick.

epidermal: having to do with the outermost layer of cells.

epigynous: (of flower) when sepals, petals and stamens are apparently borne above the ovary, the latter being enclosed in an adnate receptacle or calyx tube (compare hypogynous, perigynous).

epilithic: living on rocks.

epipetalous: borne on the petals.

epiphyte (*adj.* epiphytic): plant that grows on another plant but without deriving nourishment from it, i.e. not parasitic, as some ferns and orchids growing on trees.

erose: (of a margin) appearing to have been gnawed.

exserted: projecting beyond, as the stamens from the tube of the corolla (i.e. not included).

fascicle: tuft of leaves, branches, flowers etc. arising from about the same place.

fasciculate: bearing fascicles.

filament: the stalk of a stamen supporting the anther.

filiform: slender, thread-like.

fimbriate: with the margin bordered by long slender processes.

flexuose: zig-zag or bent alternately in opposite directions.

foliaceous: leaf-like.

foliolate: with leaflets, e.g. 3-foliolate with 3 leaflets, 5-foliolate with 5 leaflets etc.

follicle: fruit (pod) formed from a single carpel opening usually only along the inner (i.e. ventral) suture to which the seeds are attached.

funicular: deriving from the funicle (the stalk of the ovule or seed attaching it to the placenta).

fusiform: spindle-shaped, thick, but tapering towards each end.

gamopetalous: with the petals united, either entirely or at the base into a tube, cup or ring.

gamosepalous: with united sepals.

gibbous: with a pouch-like swelling or hump.

girdle: funicular girdle, the scar left on the seed at the point of attachment of the funicle.

glabrate: glabrous, but obviously having previously had an indumentum.

glabrescent: becoming glabrous or nearly so.

glabrous: without hairs or scales.

glaucous: becoming glaucous with age.

glaucous: covered with a waxy bloom, usually bluish grey or sea green, which rubs off easily.

globose: rounded, spherical.

glochid (*pl.* glochidia): (of Cactaceae) minutely barbed spinule (bristle) produced in the areole.

granulate: finely covered with very small granules.

gynodioecious: having bisexual flowers and female flowers on separate plants.

gynobasic: (of style) arising from the base of the ovary.

hemispheric: with the shape of half a sphere.

hilum: the scar left on the seed from its attachment point to the placenta.

hilum-micropylar region: (of Cactoideae) complex formed by hilum and micropyle on the seed surface.

hirsute: with rather coarse, stiff hairs.

hygrochastic: applied to plants in which opening of the fruit and dispersion of the spores or seeds are caused by absorption of water.

hypanthium: often cup-shaped extension of the receptacle formed by fusion with calyx, corolla and androecium, in some cases extended into a tube.

hypogynous: (of flower) with flower parts attached below the base of the ovary and free from it; flowers with this arrangement have a superior ovary (compare epigynous, perigynous).

imparipinnate: having an uneven number of pinnae, by virtue of having one terminal pinna.

included: (of stamens) not projecting beyond the tube of the corolla (compare exserted).

indehiscent: not opening when ripe.

indumentum: any covering to a surface, such as hairs, wool, scales, etc.

inferior: (of ovary) when calyx is inserted above ovary.

inflexed: bent sharply inwards, upwards or forwards (compare deflexed).

inflorescence: the part of the plant that bears the flowers.

infraspecific: (of taxa or variation) below the rank of species (e.g. subspecies, variety).

inserted: included.

internode: the portion of a stem between two nodes (compare node).

introrse: (of an anther) opening towards the centre of the flower.

involucral: having to do with the involucre.

involucre: a number of bracts surrounding the base of a head of flowers.

involute: having the edges of the leaves rolled towards the adaxial surface (compare revolute).

iridescent: many-coloured, with rainbow sheen.

keeled: ridged along the middle of a flat or convex surface.

lacrimiform: tear-shaped.

lamina: the expanded part of leaves or petals; same as blade.

lanceolate: lance-shaped, a lamina shape widest below the middle, tapering to the apex, with a length to width ratio of 3:1 or more.

latex: milky juice, often sticky.

leaflet: one expanded part of a compound leaf.

lenticular: shaped like a biconvex lens.

liana: woody climbing plant, mainly of tropical forests.

ligulate: strap-shaped, narrow and with parallel sides.

lithophytic: of a plant growing on rock.

lobate: with lobes.

locular: having chambers.

locule (*pl.* loculi): a chamber or compartment of an ovary or fruit or anther.

loculicidal: referring to the dehiscence of a fruit which splits down the middle of the cells or locules, along the midrib or dorsal suture.

lorate: strap-shaped; moderately long with parallel sides.

lunate: shaped like the waxing moon.

mamillate: having small nipple-like projections.

marcescent: withering without falling off.

-merous: referring to parts or their number (e.g. 3-merous).

mesophytic: adapted to normal conditions, avoiding very wet and arid conditions.

micropyle: opening in the teguments of the ovule, through which the pollen tube enters, and from which radicle emerges in seed.

midrib: the principal, usually central nerve of a leaf or leaf-like part.

moniliform: like a string of beads.

monocarpic: flowering (and possibly fruiting) only once, then dying.

monochasium (*pl.* monochasia): cyme reduced to single flowers on each axis (the laterals of the dichasium having been lost by reduction).

monoecious: with male and female flowers separate but borne on the same individual plant.

mucilage (*adj.* mucilaginous): gelatinous substance which absorbs water and increases in bulk.

multifid: divided into many lobes or segments.

nectary gland (nectary scale): gland-like organ, located outside or within a flower, that secretes nectar.

nocturnal: having flowers that open during the night.

node: the place on a stem at which a leaf or leaves and accompanying organs arise.

nut: one-seeded indehiscent fruit, with a hard dry shell (pericarp).

nutlet: little nut.

ob- (prefix): usually indicating the other way round from the usual (e.g. obconical being inversely conical, with the point of attachment at the small end).

oblate: transversely broadly elliptic.

oblong: 2-dimensional shape, much longer than broad, with nearly parallel sides.

obtuse: blunt or rounded at the end, the margins forming an angle of 90°–180°.

operculate: with a cap or lid.

operculum: lid, cap or cover.

opposite: pertaining to leaves or branches when two are borne at the same node on opposite sides of the stem.

orbicular: flat with a ± circular outline.

orthotropous: (of ovule) with a straight axis, the micropyle being distal.

ovary: that part of the pistil (the usually enlarged base) which contains the ovules and eventually becomes the fruit.

ovate: 2-dimensional shape with the outline of an egg, scarcely twice as long as broad, with

the broader end below the middle.

ovoid: 3-dimensional shape that is ovate in the vertical plan.

ovule: the immature seed in the ovary before fertilisation.

pachycaul: plant with disproportionately thick stem for its length.

palmatilobed: (of a leaf) palmately divided to about halfway to the midrib.

panicle: compound raceme; an indeterminate inflorescence in which the flowers are borne on branches of the main axis or on further branches of these.

paniculate: with the inflorescence a panicle.

papilla (*pl.* papillae): soft, small, often nipple-shaped protuberance.

papillate: having papillae.

papillose: bearing many small, soft, nipple-like protuberances.

parietal: (of placentation) with the ovules borne on the inner surface of the wall of the ovary or on intrusions of the wall that form incomplete partitions.

partite: divided but not quite to the base.

pectinate: like a comb.

pedicel: the stalk of an individual flower.

pedicellate: (of flower) stalked, with a pedicel.

peduncle: the stalk of an inflorescence.

pedunculate: (of inflorescence) with a peduncle.

peltate: of a leaf or other plant organ of which the stalk is attached to its under surface instead of to its edge.

pendulous: hanging down from; (of ovules) arising on and hanging down from an apical placenta.

penicillate: brush or pencil-shaped, long and narrow with a tuft of hairs at the end.

pentagonal: 5-angled or 5-merous.

perennial: plant whose life span extends over more than two growing seasons.

perianth: the floral envelope, consisting of calyx or corolla or both.

pericarpel: the receptacle that encloses the ovary up to below a point (ovary apex) where it extends into an epigynous hypanthium; interpreted as a short shoot, of peduncular nature.

perigynous: (of flower) when the sepals, petals and stamens arise on an open receptacle surrounding the ovary but are not adnate to it (compare epigynous, hypogynous).

persistent: remaining attached to the plant beyond the expected time of falling.

petal: single, usually free, unit of a completely divided corolla or second floral whorl.

petaloid: formed or coloured like a petal.

petiolate: (of a leaf) having a petiole.

petiole: leaf stalk.

phloem pole: side of a vascular bundle closest to the phloem found in genera such as *Agave*.

pilose: hairy with rather long, soft, simple hairs.

pinnate: (of a leaf) divided into a central axis and lateral leaflets.

pinnatifid: (of a leaf) incompletely divided, not forming distinct leaflets but incised more than 1/2 way to the midrib.

pinnatisect: (of a leaf) pinnately divided down to the midrib.

pistil: the female organ of a flower, consisting when complete of ovary, style and stigma.

pistillode: rudimentary sterile pistil.

placenta: the part of the ovary where ovules are attached.

placentation: disposition of the placenta within the ovary.

planate: flat, uniform, level, horizontal.

plicate: folded or plaited; having parallel folds like a folding fan.

porrect: pointing upwards at a slight angle from the vertical.

procumbent: said of a stem or rhizome that lies on the ground for all or most of its length, without rooting at the nodes.

proliferous: with adventitious buds on the leaves or on the flowers, such buds being capable of rooting and forming separate plants.

prophyll: leaf formed at the base of a shoot, usually smaller than those formed subsequently.

prostrate: lying flat.

proximal: the closest to the point of attachment (compare distal).

pruinose: having a whitish, waxy, powdery bloom on the surface.

puberulent: minutely pubescent.

pubescent: covered with soft, short, erect hairs.

pyrene: (of fruit) stone; seed plus a hard layer of endocarp surrounding it.

pyriform: pear-shaped.

pyxidium (*pl.* pyxidia): capsular fruit with circumscissile dehiscence.

quadrate: almost square in form.

raceme: indeterminate inflorescence in which all the flowers are borne on pedicels along an unbranched axis or peduncle, the terminal flowers being the youngest and the last to open.

reflexed: bent downwards or backwards.

reniform: kidney-shaped.

reticulate: forming a network or lattice.

revolute: rolled back from the margin (compare with involute).

rhizomatous: possessing an underground stem.

rhizome: rootstock or root-like stem prostrate on or under the ground, sending rootlets downwards and leaves upwards; always distinguished from a true root by the presence of buds.

rhomboid: (of leaves) rhombic-like, \pm diamond-shaped, having straight margins and being widest in the middle, with the petiole attached at one of the acute angles.

rosette: a circle of tightly packed leaves or other organs, if of leaves then usually at ground level (a basal rosette).

rosulate: with the leaves in a circle at the basis of the stem; with a rosette.

rugose: wrinkled; covered with coarse reticulate lines with the spaces in between convex.

rugulose: finely wrinkled.

runner: slender, prostrate or trailing stem which produces roots.

saccate: pouch-shaped.

scandent: climbing (usually without aid of tendrils).

scabrid: rough to the touch due to minute stiff hairs.

scape: naked flower stalk arising from the ground with radical or rosulate leaves.

scarious: thin and dry, not green.

schizocarp (*adj.* schizocarpic): dry dehiscent fruit which splits into its carpellary constituents at maturity.

scorpioid: (of a cymose inflorescence) with the main axis coiled in bud, the flowers being usually 2-ranked, i.e. with single flowers alternately right and left.

sepal: a single part of the outermost whorl of floral organs, the calyx; usually green, protecting the corolla in bud.

sepaloid: resembling a sepal, sometimes said of tepals.

septal nectaries: occurring in the partitions of the ovary where the carpel walls are incompletely fused, especially seen in monocotyledons.

septicidal: when a ripe capsule splits along the lines of junction of the carpels, i.e. along the septa, the fruit valves remaining attached and not falling off.

serrate: toothed like a saw, with regular acute and angled teeth pointing towards the apex.

sessile: of a leaf, without a petiole, the leaf being joined directly onto the stem.

sigmoid: S-shaped.

sinuate: with the margin uneven, with rather deep undulations (compare undulate).

spathaceous: resembling a spathe (a large bract surrounding the inflorescence).

spathulate: shaped like a small spatula or spoon, oblong, with an extended basal part.

spicate: arranged in a spike.

spike: racemose (unbranched) inflorescence with sessile flowers.

spinescence: spininess.

spiniform: shaped like a spine.

spreading: loose, not erect, said of petals and other plant organs.

stamen: the male organ of a flower, consisting of a filament, and the anthers that bear the pollen.

staminode: abortive or vestigial stamen without a perfect anther.

stellate: star-shaped, with numerous arms radiating outwards (as in the pattern on seeds, or a type of hair).

stigma: the pollen receptor on the gynoecium, which may be either sessile on the ovary or on top of the style or its arms.

stipule: leaf-like or scale-like appendages of a leaf, usually at the base of the petiole.

stipuliform: shaped like a stipule.

stolon: runner (vegetative shoot that spreads along the surface of the ground) which roots at the nodes.

striolate: marked with fine lines or ridges.

strophiolate: with strophioles.

strophiole: an aril or outgrowth of the outer seed integument near the hilum, serving as a food-body for animals which then disperse the seed (see also elaiosome).

style: narrow upper part of an ovary supporting the stigma; sometimes lacking when the stigma sits on the ovary.

sub- (prefix): nearly, almost.

subradical: (of leaves) appearing so close to the stem base that they appear to come from the root.

subtending: standing below and close to another organ.

subulate: awl-shaped.

sucker: shoot arising below ground from the roots some distance from the main stem.

suckering: producing suckers.

sulcate: grooved, furrowed.

superior: (of ovary) when sepals, petals and stamens are inserted below ovary.

surculose: producing suckers or runners from the base.

syncarpous: (of a flower) with two or more united carpels.

taproot: the main, descending root of a plant that has a single dominant root axis.

taxon (*pl.* taxa): a group or category, at any level, in a system for classifying organisms.

tepal: any of the members of a perianth that is not clearly differentiated into calyx and corolla.

terete: cylindrical, so circular in cross section and lacking grooves or ridges.

terminal: at apex of part under discussion.

ternate: arranged in a whorl or cluster of three.

testa: the outer coat of the seed (the inner coat is the tegument).

tetrasporangiate: (of anthers) four-locular.

thyrses: panicle with the secondary and ultimate axes cymose, i.e. the main axis is indeterminate and the lateral branches are determinate in their growth.

tomentose: densely covered in short, soft hairs.

trapeziform: having four edges, those which are opposite not being parallel.

trichome: epidermal outgrowth, such as a hair or scale.

trigonous: triangular in cross section and with obtuse angles (compare triquetrous).

triquetrous: triangular in cross section and with acute angles, therefore with three distinct longitudinal ridges (compare trigonous).

trullate: trowel-shaped; having its widest axis below the middle and with straight margins.

truncate: cut off \pm squarely at the end.

tuber: thickened branch of an underground stem, serving as a storage organ (this bears leaf scars and axillary buds).

tuberous: swollen; (of roots) tuber-like.

tuberculate: with tubercles (rounded protuberances).

umbel: inflorescence (racemose or indefinite) with branches arising from the same point on a common peduncle.

undulate: said of a margin that is wavy.

urceolate: urn-shaped, with a short swollen

tube contracted near the top and then slightly expanded in a narrow rim.

utricle: bladder-shaped fruit.

variegated: having streaks, marks, or patches of a different colour or colours; varicoloured.

vascular bundle: a strand of specialised tissue that conducts water or nutrients within the plant.

verrucose: warty.

versatile: (of an anther) swinging freely about the point of attachment to the filament which is in the middle of the back (compare basifixed, dorsifixed).

verticillate: (of leaves) in a whorl, i.e. several arising at the same node, arranged regularly around the stem.

villous: set with long weak hairs.

viviparous: bearing living young, when the seeds germinate on the parent plant, or where plantlets are produced from the edges of leaves.

whorled: the arrangement of similar parts (usually leaves) in a circle at the same level.

xeromorphic: having characteristics that serve as protection against excessive loss of moisture.

xerophytic: adapted to dry or arid habitats.

zoophilous: adapted for pollination by animals.

zygomorphic: with bilateral symmetry, i.e. either side of an imaginary line being a mirror image of the other (compare with actinomorphic).

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