



### *Adaxial vs. Abaxial*



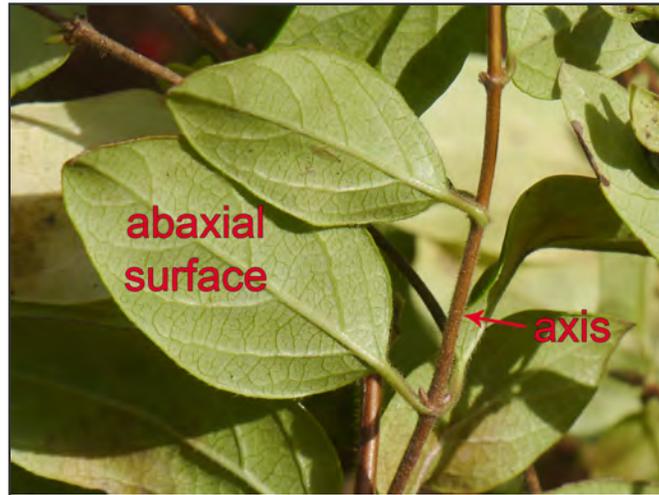
I came across the word "adaxial" and decided to find out its meaning in [Plant Identification Terminology](#) (by James G. and Melinda Woolf Harris). This term refers to the surface of a leaf which faces the axis of the plant. It is in contrast to the term "abaxial" which refers to the opposite surface of the leaf -- the side facing away from the axis.

Next, I looked up the meaning of "axis" as it applies to this situation because I couldn't quite grasp what was being defined as adaxial.

Axis -- The longitudinal, central supporting structure or line around which various organs are borne, as a stem bearing leaves.

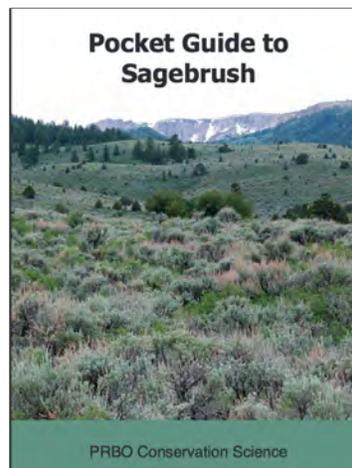
Therefore, what we usually think of as the top surface of a leaf is the adaxial surface

because it is "toward the axis."



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## *Sagebrush*



If you've ever wondered about sagebrush -- where it grows, its impact within its environment, its characteristics -- check out [Pocket Guide to Sagebrush](#) by Leila Shultz. This [book is available online as a pdf file](#). It includes detailed descriptions of 18 species of sagebrush along with loads of information about this type of plant.

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## *Mystery Plant Confirmed*



Kim Scudera was the first to correctly identify [Mystery Plant 082](#) as Wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*). I was thrilled the first time I found this plant since I knew it was a medicinal plant and I wanted to be able to make a personal tincture from it. I later found enough plants to be able to harvest a single one's roots for this purpose.

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## *Mystery Plant*

What is the name of this plant? ([There are more images on the website.](#))





When you can identify this plant, provide your response at [IdentifyThatPlant.com](https://www.identifythatplant.com) as a comment for the blog entry called [Mystery Plant 083](#). Please identify the plant by both its common name and its scientific name. The answer will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

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*Confidently master the skill of correct plant identification*

This message was sent to [angelyn@identifythatplant.com](mailto:angelyn@identifythatplant.com) from:

Angelyn | [angelyn@identifythatplant.com](mailto:angelyn@identifythatplant.com) | Angelyn Whitmeyer | c/o Angelyn Whitmeyer PO Box 574 |  
Leicester, NC 28748

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