

Adoxaceae (Elderberry Family) Key
Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador
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- 1a. Shrubs with pinnately compound leaves; flowers arranged in pyramidal branched inflorescences (compound cymes); mature fruit (drupes) red, borne on dark purple pedicels; winter twigs stout, the surface with scattered warty bumps.
..... ***Sambucus racemosa* var. *pubens*** (red elderberry)
- 1b. Shrubs with simple, lobed or unlobed leaves; flowers arranged in flat or domed branched inflorescences (compound cymes); mature fruit (drupes) red or dark blue; winter twigs slender, smooth. **2**
- 2a. Mature leaves simple, unlobed; blades elliptic to ovate, margins entire or slightly dentate; drupes maturing from green, to pink, to dark blue; winter bud with 2 elongate cinnamon-brown scurfy flexible scales.
..... ***Viburnum cassinoides*** (northern wild raisin)
- 2b. Mature leaves 3-lobed; leaf margins coarsely toothed to serrate; mature drupes red; winter buds valvate, ovate to oblong, with hard reddish-brown scales. **3**
- 3a. Shrubs to 2 m tall, usually much shorter in open habitats; newly formed leaves simple, elliptic, becoming 3-lobed; inflorescences axillary, flowers with campanulate corollas, all similar in size. ***Viburnum edule*** (squashberry)
- 3b. Shrubs tall, to 3 or 4 m tall; newly formed leaves with 3 narrowly-triangular lobes and entire margins, becoming coarsely toothed at maturity; inflorescences terminal, flowers of two sizes, marginal flowers are sterile with enlarged flat, 5-lobed corollas, central flowers are fertile with small campanulate corollas. ***Viburnum trilobum*** (highbush cranberry)

Adoxaceae Comparison Chart

Genera:	<i>Sambucus</i> (<i>S. racemosa</i> var. <i>pubens</i>)	<i>Viburnum</i>
	elderberry	viburnum
Stems	stout, with raised lenticels and large brownish pit; buds with several imbricate scales	slender, lenticels and pith small; buds with 2 valvate scales
Leaves	pinnately compound, with 5–6 leaflets; lateral leaflets with oblique bases	simple, unlobed or 3-lobed
Inflorescence (compound cyme)	erect, pyramidal; terminal	flat-topped or domed; terminal
Flowers	corolla short-campanulate , appearing flat, with 5 reflexed lobes; flowers all similar in size	corolla small, campanulate , 5-lobed; inflorescence of one species with enlarged sterile marginal flowers
Fruit	bright red drupes; 4–6 mm long, on purple pedicels	red to bluish-black drupes, 6–15 mm in diam., pedicels not brightly coloured

***Viburnum* (Adoxaceae) Comparison Chart**

<i>Viburnum</i> species:	<i>V. cassinoides</i>	<i>V. edule</i>	<i>V. trilobum</i>
	northern wild raisin	squashberry	highbush cranberry
Winter Buds	cinnamon-brown, with 2 narrow, flexible, scurfy, valvate scales	dark red, with 2 ovate to oblong, hard, valvate scales, connate at the margins	
Leaf Blades	simple, unlobed, 2.5–15 cm long; blades lanceolate, elliptic to obovate; coriaceous and often glossy above ; margins entire, dentate, or coarsely serrate	initially simple and unlobed, becoming 3-lobed; 4–12 cm long; dull, not coriaceous	3-lobed, lobes initially narrow and acuminate , becoming broader and coarsely toothed; blades 5–11 cm long; ± dull, not coriaceous
Inflorescence (compound cyme)	flat-topped ; many flowered, 3–10 cm across	rounded ; few flowered, 1.5–2.5 cm across	flat-topped ; many flowered, 4–15 cm across
Flowers	corolla white, short-campanulate, 5-lobed; stamens exerted ; all flowers of similar size	corolla white, short-campanulate, 5-lobed; stamens barely exerted beyond the corolla tube ; all flowers of similar size	corolla white, 5-lobed, flower of 2 sizes: central flowers are fertile, with a short corolla and exerted stamens; marginal flowers are sterile, larger, flat, and lack stamens
Fruit (drupes)	pink to bluish-black ; ellipsoid to ovoid, 6–9 mm long; often with a glaucous bloom	orange-red or red , globose to ovoid; 6–12 mm long, opaque at maturity	red, globose to ovoid; 6–15 mm long; translucent at maturity ; persistent over winter