

Key to Nine Common Families found in Panama

1. Leaves alternate.....2
 2. Simple.....MORACEAE (Fig or Ficus)
 2. Compound.....FABACEAE (Bean or Legume)
1. Leaves opposite or whorled.....3
 3. Simple.....4
 4. Leaf margins (edges) smooth..... 5
 5. Milky latex present..... 6
 6. Leaves leathery.....CLUSIACEAE (Clusia)
 6. Leaves not leathery (may be smooth)...APOCYNACEAE (Dog bane)
 5. Milky latex absent.....7
 7. Longitudinal veins in leaves.....MELASTOMATACEAE (Melastome)
 7. No longitudinal veins in leaves..... 8
 8. Interpetiolar stipulesRUBIACEAE (Coffee)
 8. Intrapetiolar stipules.....MALPIGHIACEAE (Nance)
 4. Leaf margins toothed.....VERBENACEAE (Lantana)
 3. Compound.....BIGNONIACEAE (African tulip)

For more thorough practice identifying plants, see <http://www.discoverlife.org/20/q>
For other, complete, keys to many regions, see <http://tinyurl.com/28rdlf>
For a copy of this key and other info, see <http://ntsavanna.wordpress.com/index/>