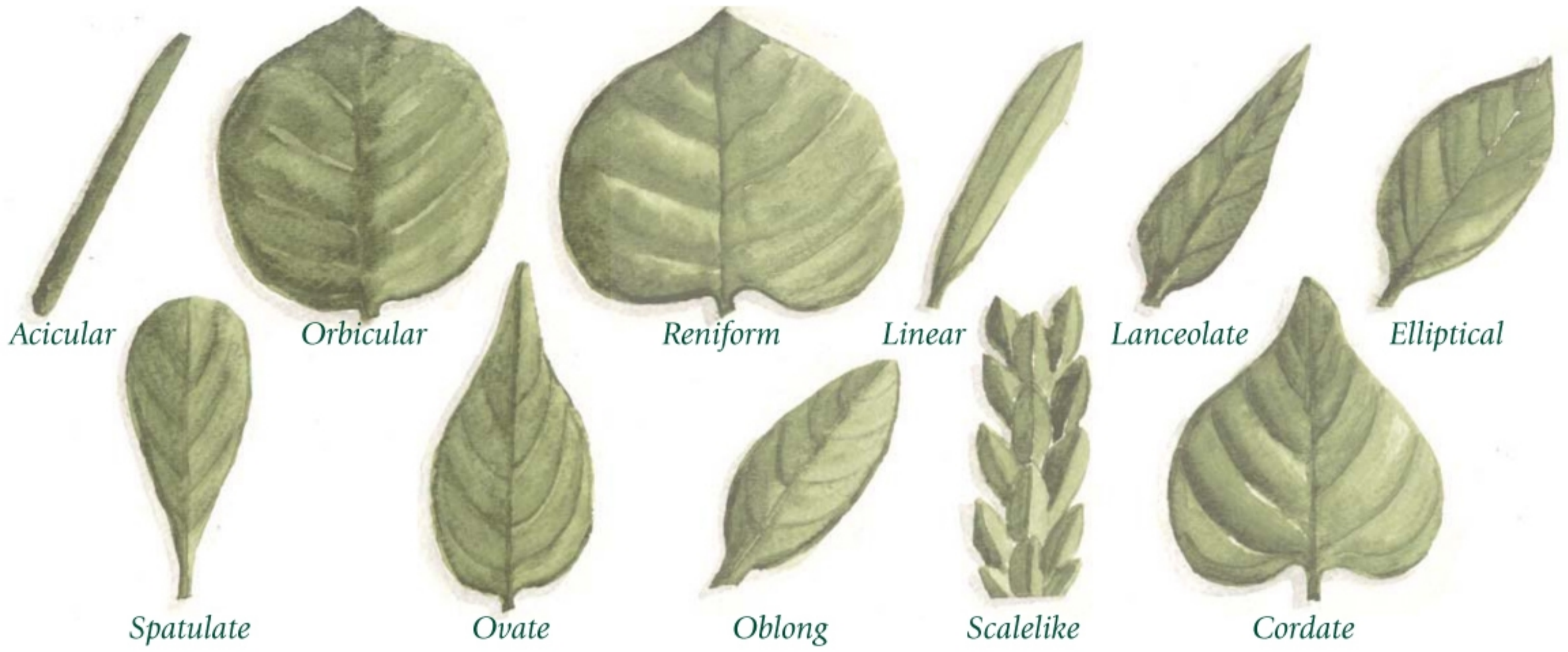
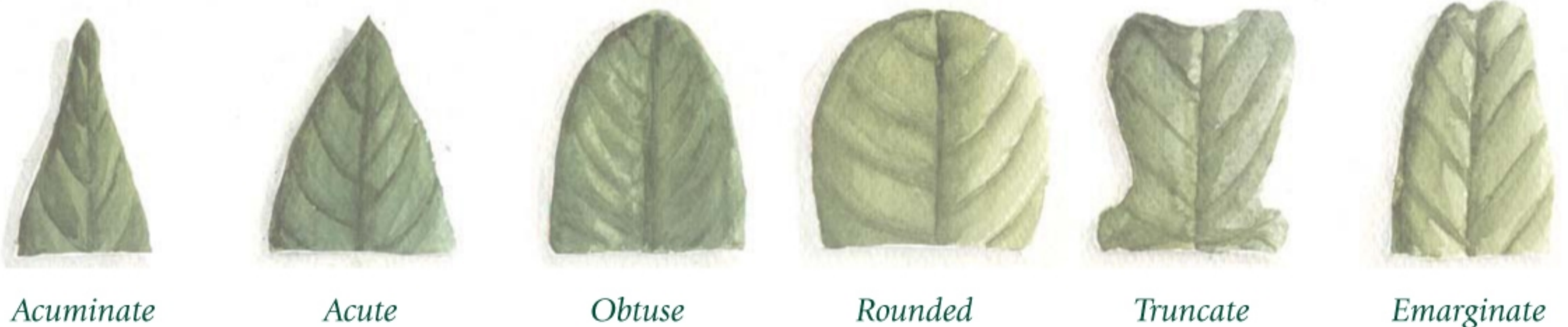


# TREE IDENTIFICATION: *Leaves*

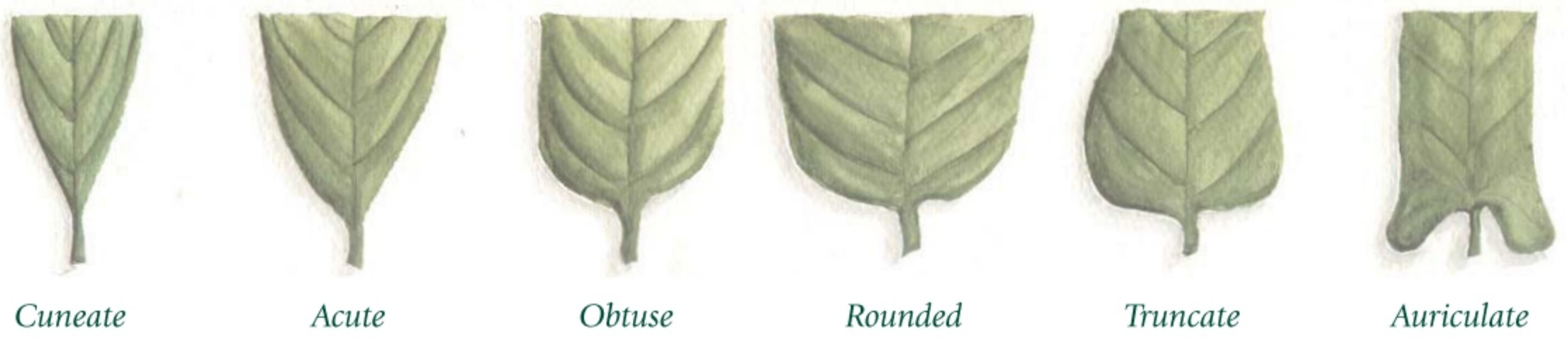
SHAPES



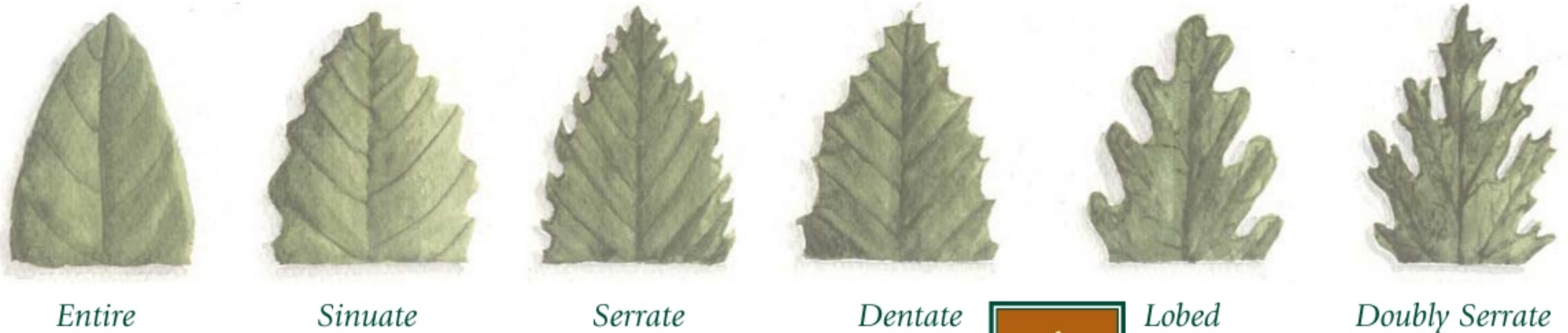
TIPS



BASES



MARGINS



VENATION



**A**

Although leaves of different tree species have the same basic parts — blade, veins, tip, base, petiole, stipule, margin — the appearance of these parts varies among species. Because these variations are easy to distinguish, examination of the leaves is the most common way to identify trees. First look at the overall shape of the leaves. Then look at the characteristics of the individual parts. What does the leaf's edge, or margin, look like? How are the leaf's veins arranged? What is the shape of the leaf's base and tip? By considering each of these characteristics, you can usually determine the tree's identity.



North Carolina Forestry Association  
1600 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608  
(919) 834-3943 or (800) 231-7723  
Web site: [www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org)

Partial funding for this project was provided by the N.C. Division of Forest Resources and USDA Forest Service, Southern Region through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program.