

Figure 2. Diagnostic characters for the genera of Dracaenaceae, compiled from Brown, 1914 and Jankalski, 2008.

Taxon →	<i>Dracaena</i> / <i>D. subgenus</i> <i>Dracaena</i>	<i>Pleomele</i> / <i>D. subgenus</i> <i>Pleomele</i> (Salisb.) Jankalski	<i>Dracaena</i> / <i>D. subgenus</i> <i>Chrysodracon</i> Jankalski*	<i>Sansevieria</i> **
Habit	Trees, shrubs	Trees, shrubs, sub-shrubs or stemless	Trees, shrubs	Shrubs branching near base or stemless
Perianth tube	Very short, <2mm	1/3 of, to longer than, lobes. Long, >4mm	Long, >4mm	1/3 of, to longer than, lobes
Rootstock				Thick, creeping
Leaves	Thick, rigid or sub-fleshy to thin and flexible	Flat, thin, or stiff, never fleshy. Midrib prominent		Cylindric, flat, fleshy, or rigid. Midrib inconspicuous; fibrous.
Flower shape	Stellate	Salver-shaped	Funnel-shaped	Narrow lobes, recurved when fully expanded. Often fragrant.
Flower colour	White, greenish?	White, greenish, often purple tinged	Yellow	White, greenish?
Pollination (many flowers open for 1 day only)	Diurnal, bees	Nocturnal, hawkmoths	Diurnal, birds	
Filaments	Thickened near the middle	Terete	Flattened, subulate	Exserted, filiform.
Inflorescence	Paniculate, clustered at the nodes of the branches	Erect to pendent, bracteate panicle, thyrses or capitulum	Pendant, foliaceous bracts, panicle	Raceme

* Jankalski considers the Hawaiian species another subgenus of *Dracaena*.

** Jankalski also cites pollen and seed characters which separate *Sansevieria* (in Jankalski, 2003, not seen).