**Dichotomous Key of Coastal Bend Plant Families Compiled by Chad Huckabee. (Revised Jan 2022)**

1. Plants with climbing or sometimes trailing stems: vines.........................................................**Key A**

Plants **NOT** as above.......................................................................................................................2

1. Plants with woody stems: **Trees and Shrubs**...........................................................................**Key B**

Plants **NOT** woody unless at the base: **Herbs & Shrubs**..................................................................3

1. Plants of aquatic or land habits that stay moist: **Aquatic or Marsh**.......................................**Key C**

Plants **NOT** as above.......................................................................................................................4

1. Flowering plants attached to stems of trees or shrubs: **Parasites or Epiphytes**.....................**Key D**

Flowering plants **NOT** as above.......................................................................................................5

1. Stems and leaves spiny, prickly or stinging: ..........................................................................**Key E**

Stems **NOT** as above.......................................................................................................................6

1. Flowers unisexual, the male and female on separate plants...................................................**Key F**

Flowers **NOT** as above....................................................................................................................7

1. Perianth lacking or reduced to scales, bristles, or hairs..........................................................**Key G**

Perianth well developed in some or all of the flowers...................................................................8

1. Perianth **NOT** clearly differentiated into calyx and corolla or only the calyx present...,,,,,,,..**Key H**

Perianth clearly differentiated into calyx and corolla.....................................................................9

1. Corolla with petals separate.....................................................................................................**Key I**
2. Corolla with corolla partly or totally united..............................................................................**Key J**

Notes:

* Carefully examine plants in order to ensure the criteria is met.
* When you get to the term perianth, it is the outer part of the flower: the calyx (sepals) and the corolla (petals)