Cloud varieties

Clouds may exhibit special characteristics that determine their variety.

These characteristics are related to: -

- **The different arrangements of the macroscopic elements of the clouds (Macroscopic means visible to the naked eye).**
- **The degree of transparency of the clouds**.

A given variety may be common to several genera. The same cloud may show characteristics pertaining to more than one variety.

In this case, all the appropriate variety names are included in the name of the cloud.

Intortus **Cirrus**	Cirrus, the filaments of which are irregularly curved and often seemingly entangled in a capricious manner.	
Vertebratus **Cirrus**	Clouds, the elements of which are arranged in a manner suggestive of vertebrae, ribs, or fish skeleton.	
Undulatus **Cirrocumulus** **Cirrostratus** **Altocumulus** **Altostratus** **Straticumulus** **Stratus**	Clouds in patches, sheets or layers, showing undulations. These undulations may be observed in fairly uniform cloud layers, or in clouds composed of elements, separated or merged. Sometimes a double system of undulations is in evidence.	

Radiatus **Cirrus** **Altocumulus** **Altostratus** **Stratocumulus** **Cumulus**	Clouds showing broad parallel bands or arranged in parallel bands, which, owing to the effect of perspective, seem to converge towards a point on the horizon or, when the bands cross the whole sky, towards two opposite points on the horizon, called "radiation" point(s).	
Lacunosus **Cirrocumulus** **Altocumulus** **Stratocumulus**	Cloud patches, sheets or layers, usually rather thin, marked by more or less regularly distributed round holes, many of them with fringed edges. Cloud elements and clear spaces are often arranged in a manner suggesting a net or a honeycomb.	
Duplicatus **Cirrus** **Cirrostratus** **Altocumulus** **Altostratus** **Stratocumulus**	Superposed cloud patches, sheets or layers, <u>at different levels</u>, sometimes partly merged	
Translucidus **Altocumulus** **Altostratus** **Stratocumulus** **Stratus**	Clouds in an extensive patch, sheet or layer, the greater part of which is <u>sufficiently translucent to reveal the position of the sun or moon</u>.	
Perlucidus **Altocumulus** **Stratocumulus**	An extensive cloud patch, sheet or layer, <u>with distinct but sometimes very small spaces between the elements</u>. The spaces allow the sun, the moon, the blue sky or overlying clouds to be seen.	
Opacus **Altocumulus** **Altostratus** **Stratocumulus** **Stratus.**	An extensive cloud patch, sheet or layer, the greater part of which is sufficiently opaque to mask completely the sun or moon.	

Table of varieties and the genera with which they most frequently occur

(Section 2.2.2.3.10)

Table 8. Cloud varieties and the genera with which they most frequently occur

Genera / *Varieties*	*Ci*	*Cc*	*Cs*	*Ac*	*As*	*Ns*	*Sc*	*St*	*Cu*	*Cb*
intortus (in)	●									
vertebratus (ve)	●									
undulatus (un)		●	●	●	●		●	●		
radiatus (ra)	●			●	●		●		●	
lacunosus (la)		●		●			●			
duplicatus (du)	●		●	●	●		●			
translucidus (tr)				●	●		●	●		
perlucidus (pe)				●			●			
opacus (op)				●	●		●	●		