

OHIO BUCKEYE

Aesculus glabra Willd.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Buckeye, Fetid buckeye, Stinking buckeye, American horse chestnut.

FORM: Usually not over 40 feet in height with a diameter of 12 inches, may reach a height of 90 feet with a diameter of 24 inches, crown broad, round-topped.

BARK: On young stems and branches; dark brown and scaly; on old trees ashy-gray, furrowed, broken into thick plates, the surface of which is scaly.

TWIGS: Stout, at first downy and brown, later smooth, reddish-brown to ashy-gray, fetid odor when bruised.

LEAVES: Opposite, digitately compound with 5, sometimes 7, leaflets 3-6 inches long, more or less oval, usually long-pointed at the apex and narrowed at the base, irregularly and finely toothed on the margin, mature leaflets smooth, yellowish-green above, lower surface paler; foliage ill-smelling when bruised.

FLOWERS: Small, yellowish or greenish with 4 upright petals, borne in more or less downy terminal panicles about 5-6 inches long and 2-3 inches broad, panicles 4-6 flowered; stamens project beyond the yellow corolla.

FRUIT: A thick, more or less rounded, prickly capsule, an inch or more in diameter, borne on a stout stalk, containing at least one rounded lustrous brown nut.

WINTER BUDS: 2/3 inch long, sharp-pointed, resinous; outer bud scales, reddish-brown, finely hairy on the margin, inner bud scales yellowish-green.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, not strong, heartwood nearly white, often blemished by dark lines of decay.

USES: Landscaping. Historical uses: Artificial limbs, chip hats, woodenware.

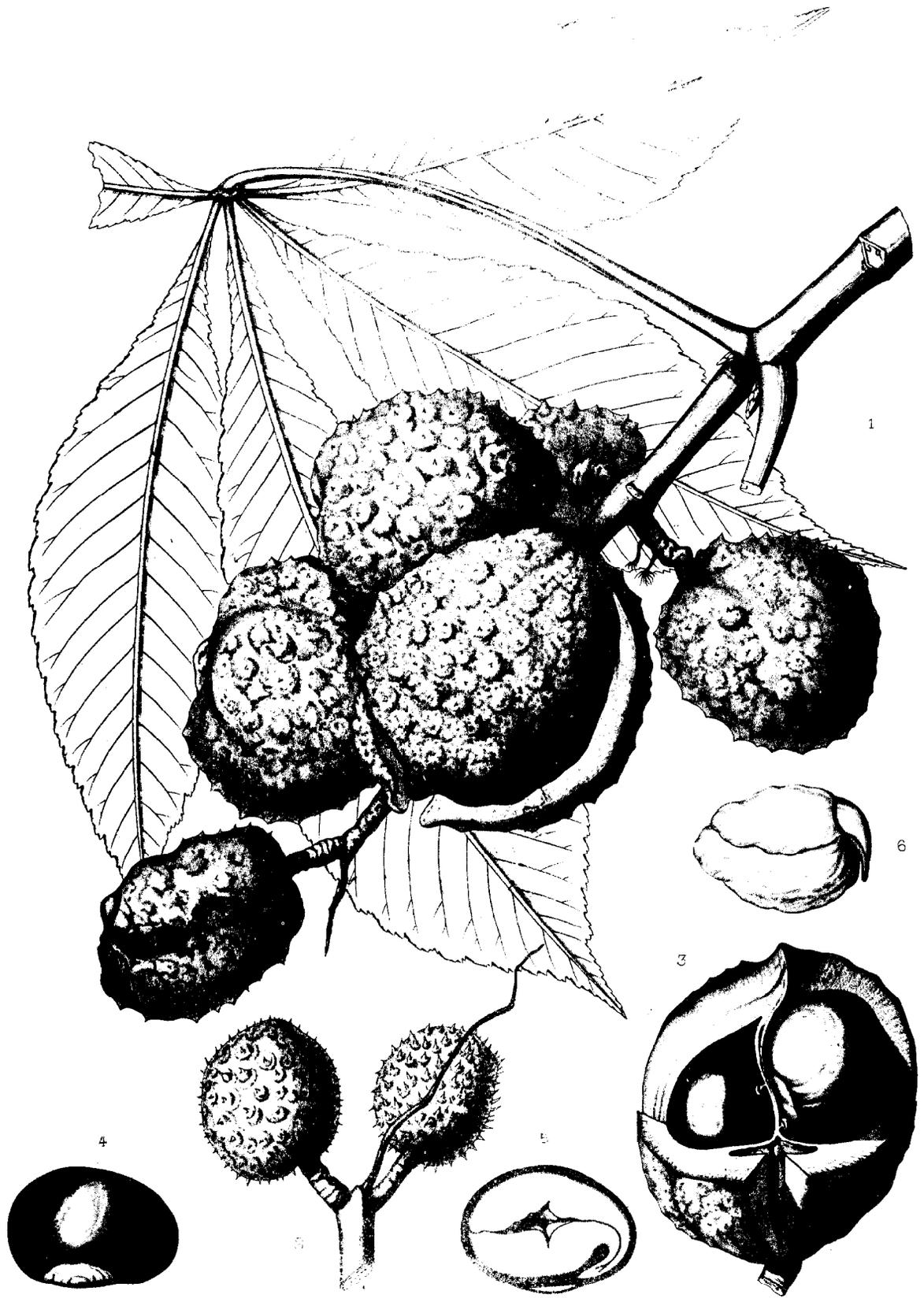
HABITAT: Prefers moist soil along banks of streams, ravines and similar situations.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Capsule leathery, spiny, contains 1-3 shining seeds; leaves opposite, digitately compound; leaves and stems ill-smelling when bruised.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Colbert, Madison, Blount, Morgan, Winston, and Greene Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 4. A seed |
| 2. A half-grown fruit | 5. Vertical section of a seed |
| 3. A fruit with a portion of two of the valves removed | 6. An embryo |



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