

SHELLBARK HICKORY

Carya laciniosa (Michx. f.) Loud.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Bigleaf shagbark hickory, Big shellbark.

FORM: In general resembles the shagbark hickory, 50-90 feet high, trunk diameter 2-3 feet, occasionally 120 feet tall; crown in the open oblong or somewhat oval, branches rather short, extend to within 8-10 feet of the ground, lower branches pendulous; in the forest, the crown is somewhat reduced.

BARK: Mature bark light gray, 1-2 inches thick, separates into broad thick plates giving the tree a shaggy appearance.

TWIGS: Stout, somewhat velvety or hairy, buff to nearly orange in color, covered with inconspicuous elongated lenticels.

LEAVES: Alternate, compound, 15-22 inches long with 7-8 ovate to oblong-lanceolate or broadly obovate leaflets; basal pair of leaflets about 1/2 size of terminal leaflet; upper pair broadest between the middle and the apex; toothed on the margin, sharp-pointed at the apex, tapering or rounded at the base, dark green above, pale to brownish and hairy below.

FLOWERS: Appear when leaves about half developed, monoecious; staminate often hairy, in aments clustered in threes and 5-8 inches long; pistillate rusty, woolly, arranged in few or many-flowered spikes.

FRUIT: Oval to broadly oblong, husk thick, 1 3/4-2 1/2 inches long; nut dull white or yellowish, thick-shelled, flattened and pointed at both ends; kernel light brown and sweet.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal bud oval, 3/4-1 inch long, outer scales loose hairy; lateral buds much smaller.

WOOD: Difficult to distinguish from that of the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*); very hard, strong, tough, close-grained, very flexible, dark brown.

USES: Tool handles, rough lumber, railroad ties, fuel, barbeque smoke. Historical uses: wheel spokes.

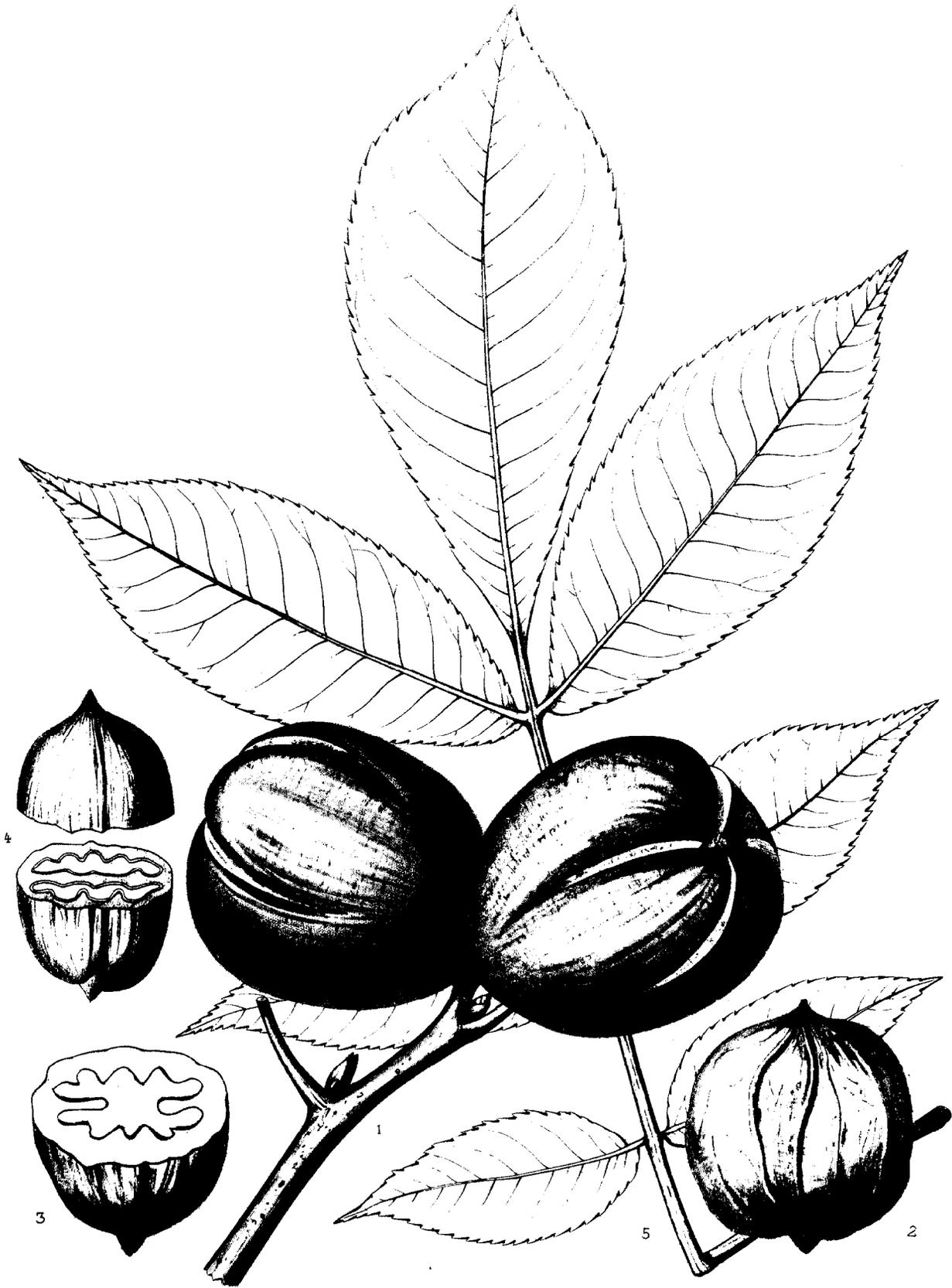
HABITAT: Prefers deep moist soil, rich bottom lands, occasionally hillsides.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Dull white or yellowish nuts that are pointed at both ends; leaflets 7-8 and more downy on under surface than in *ovata* which has 5-7 leaflets; large terminal bud.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Distribution apparently not well known. Reported from Dallas County.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 4. A nut cut transversely |
| 2. A nut | 5. A leaf |
| 3. Cross section of a nut | |



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