

WHITE BASSWOOD
Tilia heterophylla Vent.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Beetree linden, Linn, White linn.

FORM: 50-60 feet high, trunk 3-4 feet in diameter with slender branches forming, generally, a narrow pyramidal head.

BARK: 1/2 inch thick, furrowed, the surface broken into short thin light brown scales.

TWIGS: Green or red the first year, later brown with many oblong wart-like excrescences.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, obliquely truncate or cordate at base, apex contracted into a short point, serrate with rather remote glandular teeth, 6-7 inches long, 4-5 inches wide, bright green, glabrous above, lower surface pale, often silvery-white, covered with a short fine pubescence.

FLOWERS: Appear in early summer, perfect, fragrant, yellowish-white, in 10-20 drooping cymose clusters, free portion of peduncle 1/12-1/6 inch long, its bract narrowed and rounded at apex, unsymmetrically cuneate at base, 4-7 inches long, 1-1 1/2 inch wide.

FRUIT: An ellipsoid woody-like drupe, apiculate at apex, covered with rusty-brown tomentum, 1/3 inch long; borne in cymose clusters on a long stalk attached at the base to the persistent leafy bract.

WINTER BUDS: Broadly ovate, flattened, bright red, with a slight glaucous bloom.

WOOD: Resembles other American lindens; sapwood much thinner, may consist of only 5-6 annual rings.

USES: Historical uses: crating, furniture, wood carving, bee keeper's supplies, honey/slide boxes, picture frames.

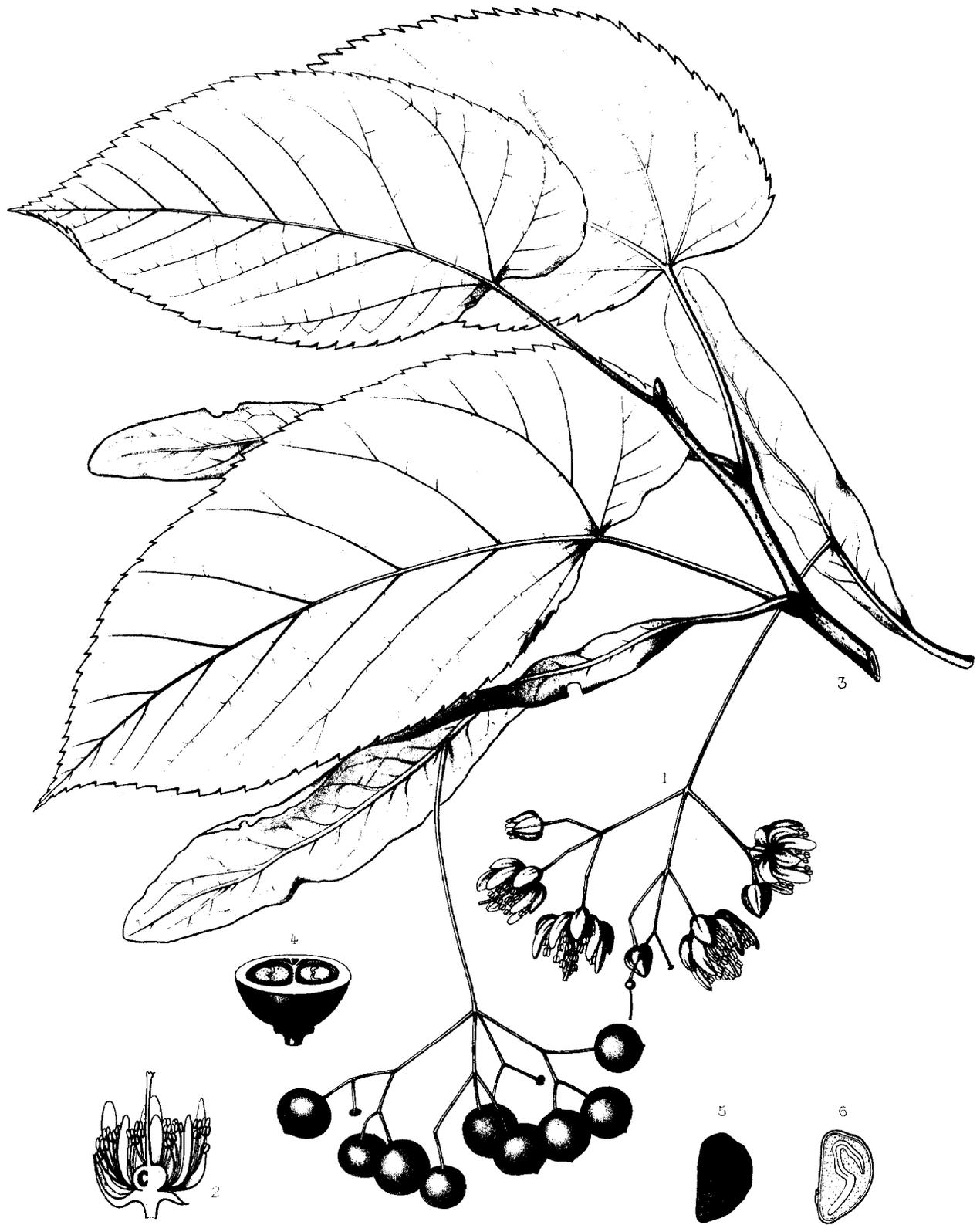
HABITAT: Rich wooded slopes in rather moist soil or near banks of streams or on limestone soil.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Flowers somewhat larger than those of other American species; the large size of the bract attached on the cymose cluster of flowers and fruit; the shape, size, and margin of the leaves; leaves often silvery-white and pubescent on the lower surface.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Lawrence, Winston, DeKalb, Coosa, and Dallas Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A cluster of flowers, with its pedunculate bract | 4. Cross section of a fruit, with two seeds developed |
| 2. Vertical section of a flower | 5. A seed enlarged |
| 3. A fruiting branch | 6. Vertical section of a seed |



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