

## WINGED ELM

### *Ulmus alata* Michx.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Cork Elm, Witch elm, Water elm, Southern elm.

FORM: Usually about 40-50 feet high, diameter of trunk 2-3 feet, occasionally 80-100 feet high, short, stout, straight or erect branches forming a narrow oblong rather open round-topped head.

BARK: Rarely more than 1/4 inch thick, light brown, tinged with red, divided by irregular shallow fissures into flat ridges covered by small closely appressed scales.

TWIGS: At first glabrous or puberulous and light green tinged with red, become reddish-brown and glabrous in their first winter; usually with 2 corky ridges beginning to grow during their first or more often during their second season, abruptly arrested at the nodes, often 1/2 inch wide, and persist many years.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, ovate-oblong to oblong-lanceolate, often somewhat falcate, acute or acuminate at apex, unequally cuneate or rounded or subcordate at base, coarsely doubly serrate with incurved teeth, at maturity thick and firm or subcoriaceous, dark green, smooth above, pale and soft pubescent below, 2-2 1/2 inches long, 1/2-3/4 inch wide.

FLOWERS: On drooping pedicels, in short, few-flowered fascicles; calyx glabrous, divided nearly to the middle into 5 broad ovate rounded lobes as long as the hoary-tomentose ovary.

FRUIT: Ripens before or with unfolding of the leaves, oblong, 1/3 inch in length, contracted at the base into a long slender stalk, gradually narrowed and tipped at apex with long curved awns.

WINTER BUDS: Slender, acute, 1/8 inch long, dark chestnut-brown with glabrous or puberulous scales.

WOOD: Heavy, hard, not strong, close-grained, difficult to split, light brown, thick, lighter colored

USES: Landscaping, pulp. Historical uses: barrels, baskets, chairs, crates, twine, wheel hubs.

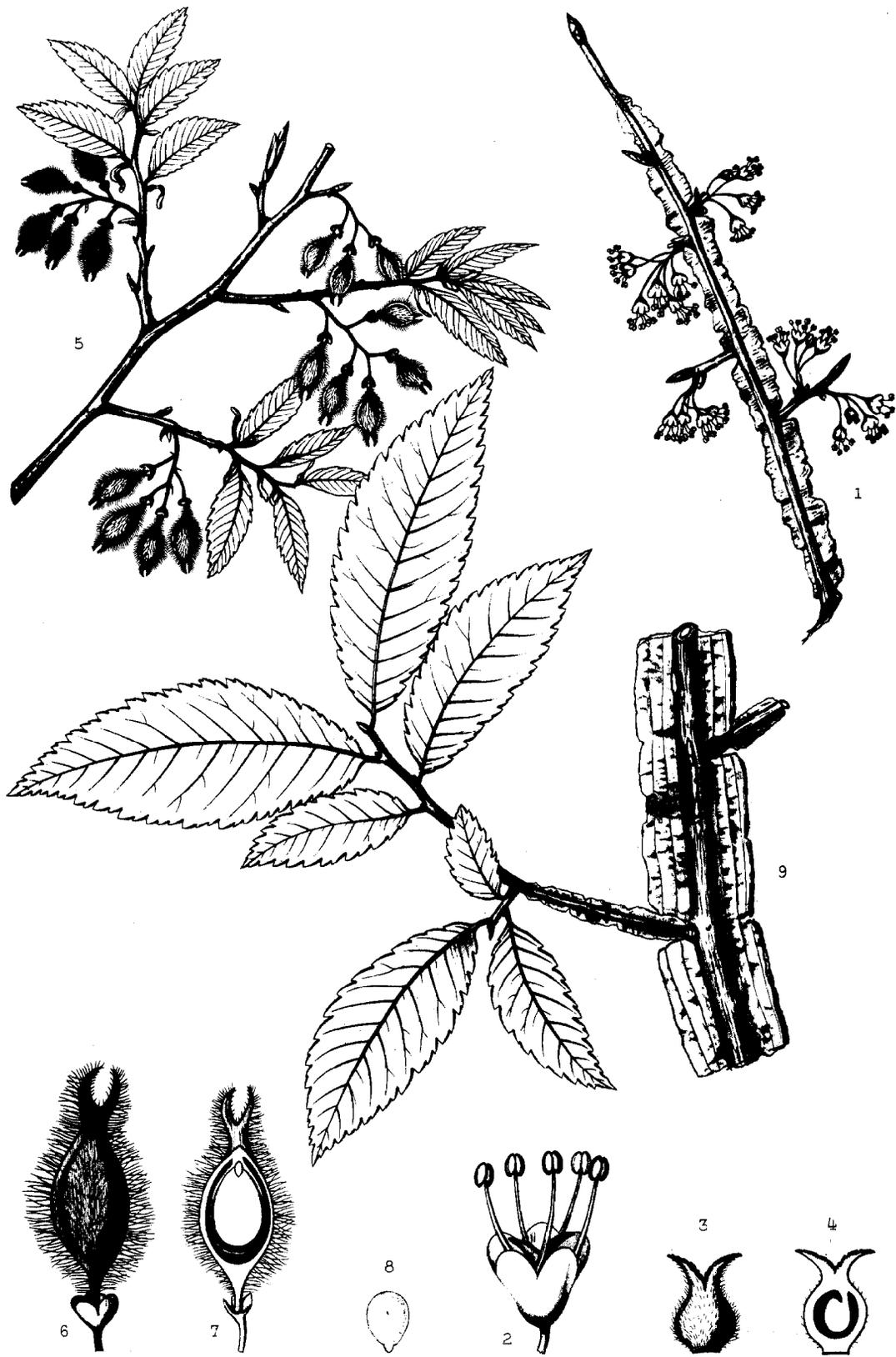
HABITAT: Usually on gravelly uplands, less common in alluvial soil, often on clayey calcareous soils.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Wing of the fruit narrow; branchlets usually with broad corky wings; leaves ovate-oblong to oblong-lanceolate; fruit gradually narrowed and tipped at apex with long awns.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Fairly common over the state except southernmost counties.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch           | 6. A fruit                     |
| 2. A flower                     | 7. Vertical section of a fruit |
| 3. A pistil                     | 8. An embryo                   |
| 4. Vertical section of a pistil | 9. A summer branch             |
| 5. A fruiting branch            |                                |



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