

ALLEGHENY CHINKAPIN

Castanea pumila Mill.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Chinkapin.

FORM: A small tree or shrub, usually 20-30 feet in height, may reach a height of 50 feet with a diameter 2-3 feet, with slender spreading branches forming a roundish crown; as a shrub, it may spread by stolons with stout stems 4-5 feet tall.

BARK: On the main trunk 1/2 to nearly 1 inch thick, light brown tinged with red, fissured and broken on the surface into loose plate-like scales.

TWIGS: At first pale woolly, finally reddish-brown to dark brown, with numerous lenticels.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, oblong-elliptic to oblong-obovate, acute, coarsely serrate with spreading or incurved teeth, gradually narrowed and usually unequal and rounded or cuneate at base; yellowish-green and smooth on the upper surface; pale and whitish down beneath; 3-5 inches long, 1 1/2-2 inches wide.

FLOWERS: Appear in May or June; staminate in crowded clusters along aments; pistillate at base of upper aments.

FRUIT: Matures in September or October; a stiff spiny burr, 1-1 1/2 inches in diameter, usually contains 1, occasionally 2, sweet brown nuts with a more or less hairy apex, edible.

WINTER BUDS: Alternate; terminal bud absent, ovoid, blunt-pointed, about 1/8 inch long.

WOOD: Hard, strong, brown, durable, rich in tannic acid.

USES: Landscaping.

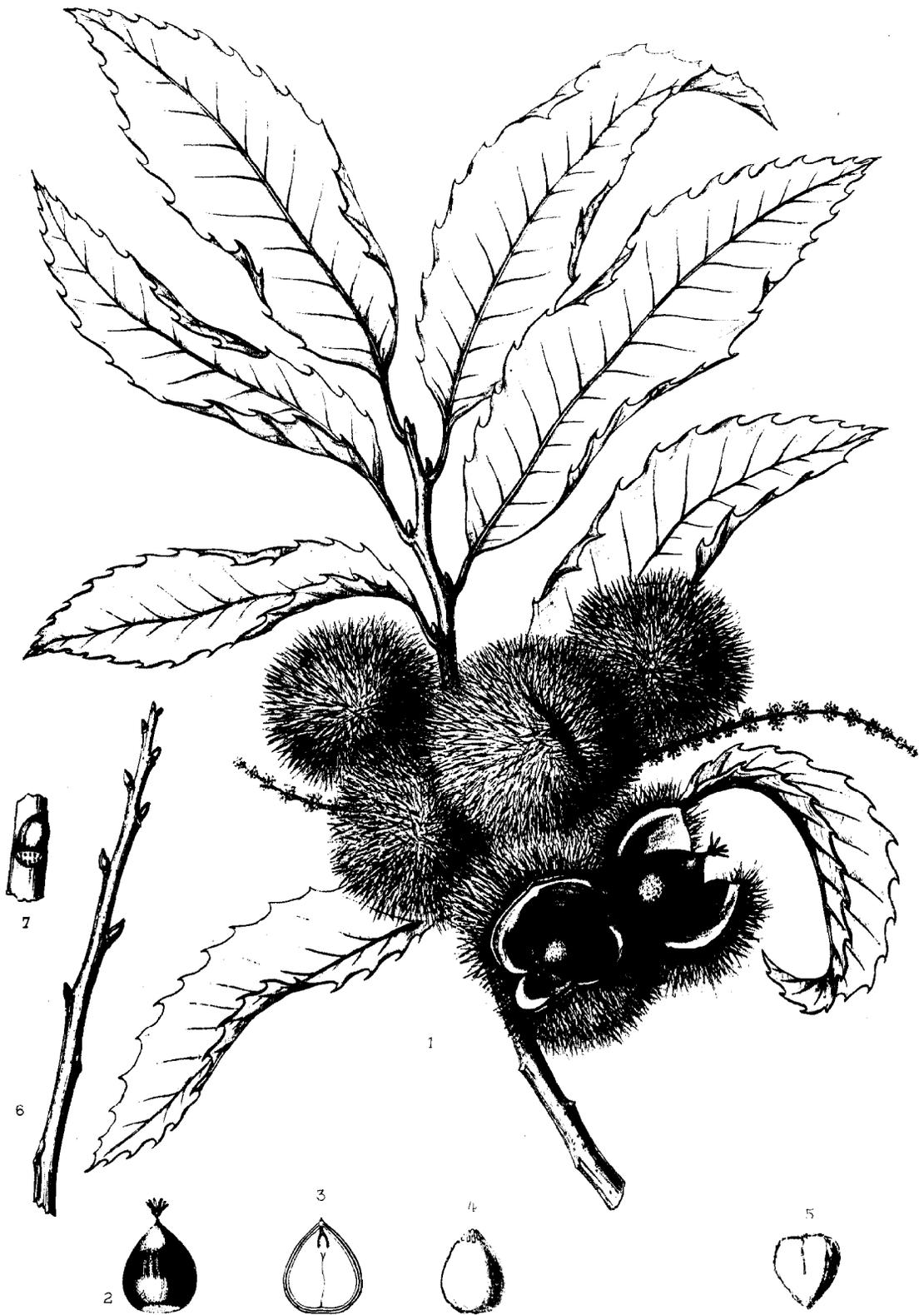
HABITAT: Dry sandy slopes, fertile hillsides, margins of ponds and streams.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Small fruit; whitish down on lower side of leaves; scurfy red buds.

IN ALABAMA: Tuscaloosa, Clay, Perry, Greene, Autauga, Montgomery, Dallas, Russell, Dale, Coffee, Choctaw, Wilcox, Baldwin, and Mobile Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 5. An embryo |
| 2. A nut | 6. A winter branch |
| 3. Vertical section of a nut | 7. An axillary leaf bud and leaf scar |
| 4. A seed | |



Castanea pumila Mitt.