

MOCKERNUT HICKORY

Carya tomentosa Poir. Nutt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Whiteheart hickory, Bullnut, White hickory, Hognut.

FORM: 50-80 feet tall, sometimes 100 feet high with a diameter of 3 feet; in the forest, crown narrowly oblong extending about half-way down the trunk; in the open, a broad, open and rather ragged crown.

BARK: Dark or light gray, 1/2-3/4 inch thick, not shaggy, roughened by irregular furrows which separate broad flat, more or less scaly, ridges.

TWIGS: Very stout, usually downy at first, reddish brown, turning gray the second season.

LEAVES: Alternate, compound, 8-12 inches long, with 7-9 oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate leaflets, broadest above the middle, sharp-pointed at the apex, toothed on the margin, rounded or tapering at the base, very fragrant; leaflets arranged in pairs along a stout stem; lower pair gradually reduced in size; terminal leaflet gradually narrowed into a stalk; at maturity rather thin, dark green above, pale orange-brown and finely hairy below.

FLOWERS: Appear when the leaves are about half developed, monoecious, staminate borne in slender catkins, 4-5 inches long, in clusters of three on a common stalk; pistillate borne in 2-5 flowered pale hairy spikes.

FRUIT: Globular or oval 1 1/2-2 inches long, 4-channeled from apex to base; at maturity dark reddish-brown, husk thick, splitting to the base; nut pale reddish-brown. Very thick shell, variable in shape, 4-ridged toward the apex; small dark brown, sweet kernel.

WINTER BUDS: Alternate; terminal bud very large, 2/5 to 4/5 inch long, densely hairy, usually blunt-pointed, with overlapping scales, the outer pair drops off in the autumn and exposes inner yellowish-gray silky scales; lateral buds reddish-brown.

WOOD: Best grade of hickory stock, wood hard, strong, heavy, tough and elastic, dark brown with thick sapwood

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

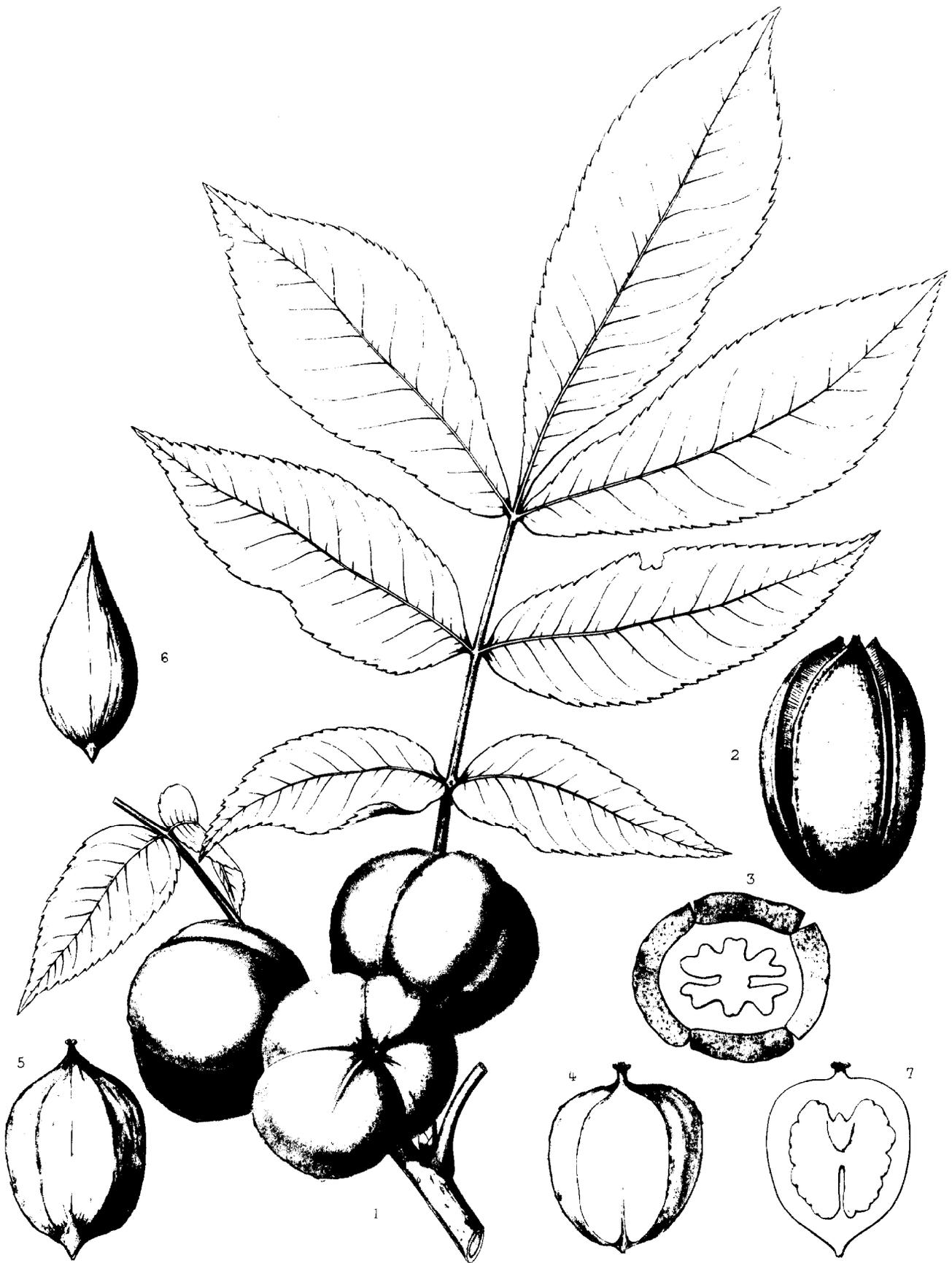
HABITAT: Moisture loving; rich, deep soil, bottom-land.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Big bud hickory; bark rough, close-fitting, does not shag off; scurfy rough foliage; thick-shell nut, and small kernel.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: In almost every region of the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A fruting branch | 5. A nut |
| 2. An oblong fruit | 6. A nut |
| 3. Cross section of a fruit | 7. Vertical section of a nut |
| 4. A nut | |



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