

WATER HICKORY

Carya aquatica (Michx. f.) Nutt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Swamp hickory, Bitter pecan, Pignut hickory.

FORM: Occasionally 80-100 feet high, rarely more than 2 feet in diameter with slender upright branches forming a narrow head.

BARK: 1/2-2/3 inch thick, separates into long loose plate-like scales tinged with red.

TWIGS: At first slightly glandular and coated with loose fine hair, finally red-brown, ultimately gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, compound, 9-15 inches long, with 7-13 leaflets that are ovate-lanceolate, long-pointed, somewhat sickle-shaped, base oblique, leaflets 3-5 inches long, 1/2-1 1/2 inch wide, covered with yellow glandular dots, thin, dark green and glabrous above, finely hairy below.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in solitary or fascicled hirsute aments 2 1/2-3 inches covered with yellow glandular pubescence; pistillate in several flowered spikes, oblong, slightly flattened, 4-angled, glandular-pubescent.

FRUIT Often in clusters of 3-4, somewhat flattened, usually broadest above the middle, slightly narrowed at the base, abruptly narrowed at the apex, conspicuously 4-winged, dark brown or nearly black, covered more or less thickly with bright yellow scales; 1 1/2 inch long, 1-1 1/4 inch wide; nut flattened, nearly as broad as long, abruptly pointed at the apex, dark reddish-brown, irregularly wrinkled, with a thin shell; seed very bitter.

WINTER BUDS: Slightly flattened, sharp-pointed, dark reddish-brown; terminal bud 1/2 inch long, hairy.

WOOD: Heavy, strong, close-grained, rather brittle, dark brown.

USES: Fuel.

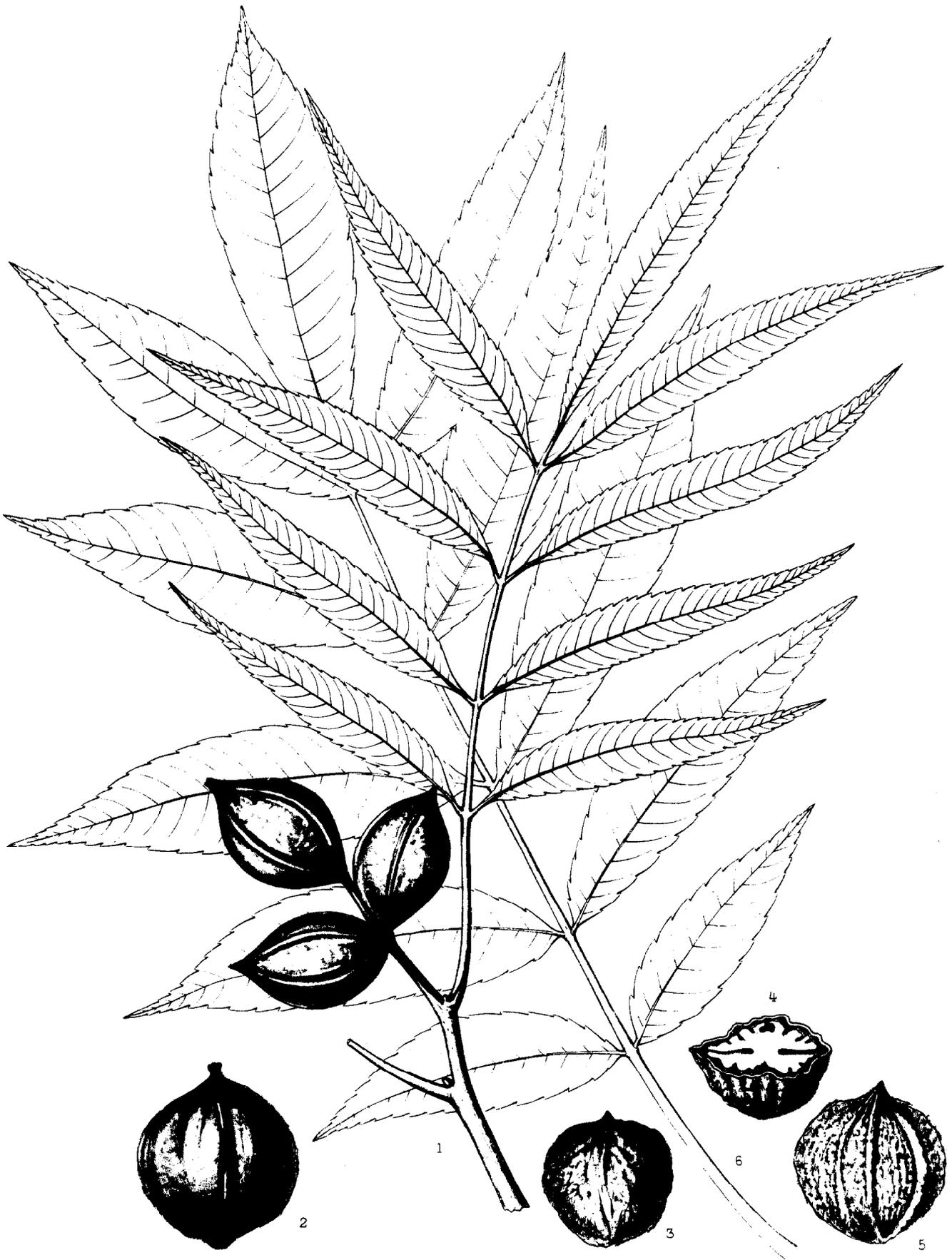
HABITAT: River swamps.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Inhabits swamps; nut wrinkled; bark separates into long plate-like scales; leaflets covered more or less thickly with yellow glandular dots.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Morgan and Tuscaloosa Counties, most common in the Black Belt and lime hills.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 4. Cross section of a nut |
| 2. A fruit | 5. A nut |
| 3. A nut | 6. A leaf |



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