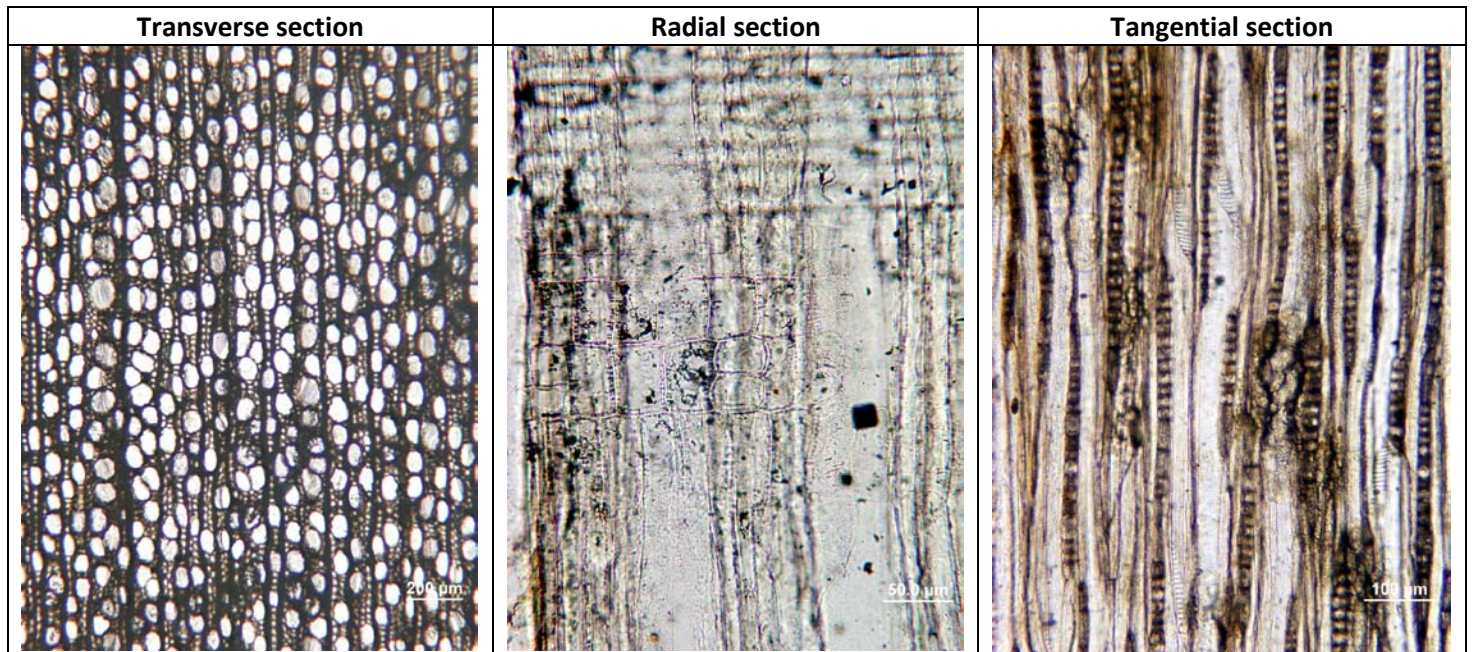


Hamamelidoxylon beckii

Family: Hamamelidaceae

Naming reference: Wheeler, E.A. & T.A. Dillhoff. 2009. The Middle Miocene wood flora of Vantage, Washington, USA. IAWA Journal, Supplement 7. 101p.



Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

Diagnostic features: Growth ring boundaries indistinct, diffuse porous vessel arrangement. Vessels narrow, solitary, tending towards angular in outline. Perforation plates scalariform with 14-24 bars (usually 19-22). Rays mostly uniseriate, heterocellular with 1-2 rows of square to upright cells with nodular walls. Crystals occur in some enlarged ray cells. Axial parenchyma rare.

Discussion: Beck (1945) identified this wood as *Gordonia* in the family Theaceae, but it was never formally described. He indicated that it was relatively common from Vantage but not elsewhere. While this type does share some features with *Gordonia*, the presence of crystals in chambered ray cells and the form of the vessel-ray parenchyma pits place it in the family Hamamelidaceae rather than the Theaceae. See Wheeler & Dillhoff for additional discussion.

In modern times, the family Hamamelidaceae exhibits a disjunct distribution with genera and species native to scattered areas throughout the world. Fossils such as this wood type show that the family was once more widely distributed.