<u>"Albizzia vantagiensis"</u>

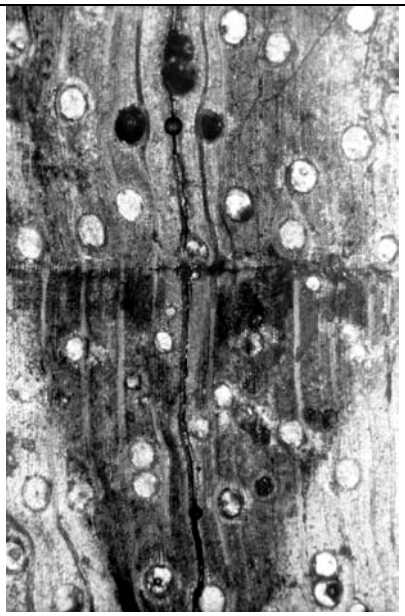
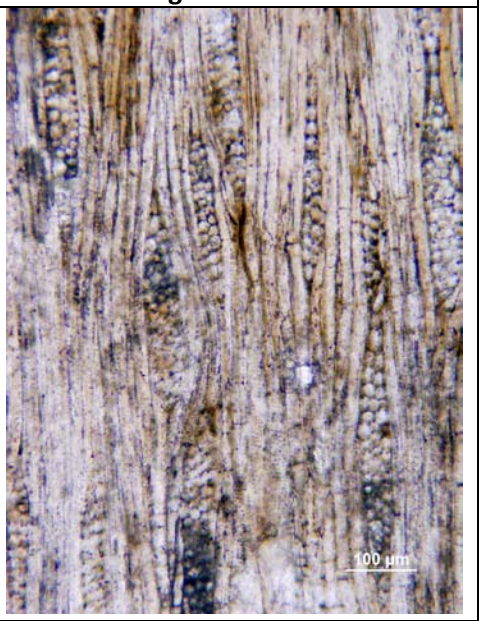
Family: Fabaceae

Synonym: *Tetrapleuron vantagiense* (Prakash & Barghoorn) Müller-Stoll & Mädel 1967

Naming reference: Prakash, U. & E.S. Barghoorn. 1961. Miocene fossil woods from the Columbia basalts of central Washington, I. Journal of the Arnold Arboretum XLII, 165-199

Other references: Müller-Stoll, W.R. & E. Mädel. 1967. Die fossilen Leguminosen-Hölzer. Eine Revision der mit Leguminosen verglichenen fossilen Hölzer und Beschreibung älterer und neuer Arten. Palaeontographica 119B: 95-174.

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

Transverse section	Transverse section	Tangential section
		

Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

<u>Diagnostic features</u>: Growth rings distinct, diffuse porous vessel arrangement. Vessels are sparse, mostly solitary (72%) or in radial multiples of 2-3. Rays 1-4 seriate (mostly 3-4), homocellular. Perforation plates simple. Axial parenchyma mostly vasicentric, some tendency to aliform-lozenge, usually 4 cells per strand.

<u>Discussion</u>: This is a rare type known only from Vantage. The wood belongs to the legume family and was originally studied by Prakash & Barghoorn, who stated that the wood most closely approximated the modern genus *Albizia* and described it as *Albizzia vantagiensis*. Müller-Stoll & Mädel reexamined the wood several years later and reassigned it to *Tetrapleuron vantagiense* , based on anatomical features that they felt excluded it from *Albizia*. In their 2009 study, Wheeler & Dillhoff revisited the nomenclature and determined that the wood does not fit the description of the genus *Tetrapleuron*. Furthermore, it does resemble some species of *Albizia* as noted by Prakash and Barghoorn, as well as other closely related genera. The sample is not well preserved and thus it was decided to revert back to the original name until such time as better specimens could be located which might help to clarify the relationship of this wood. The name is given in quotation marks to indicate that there is uncertainty in the validity of the name. A more detailed discussion on the nomenclatural issues can be found in Wheeler & Dillhoff (2009).

Specimens of this wood are occasionally seen in private and museum collections, often labeled as 'teak'. Modern teak is from a different plant family and is unrelated to this wood type.