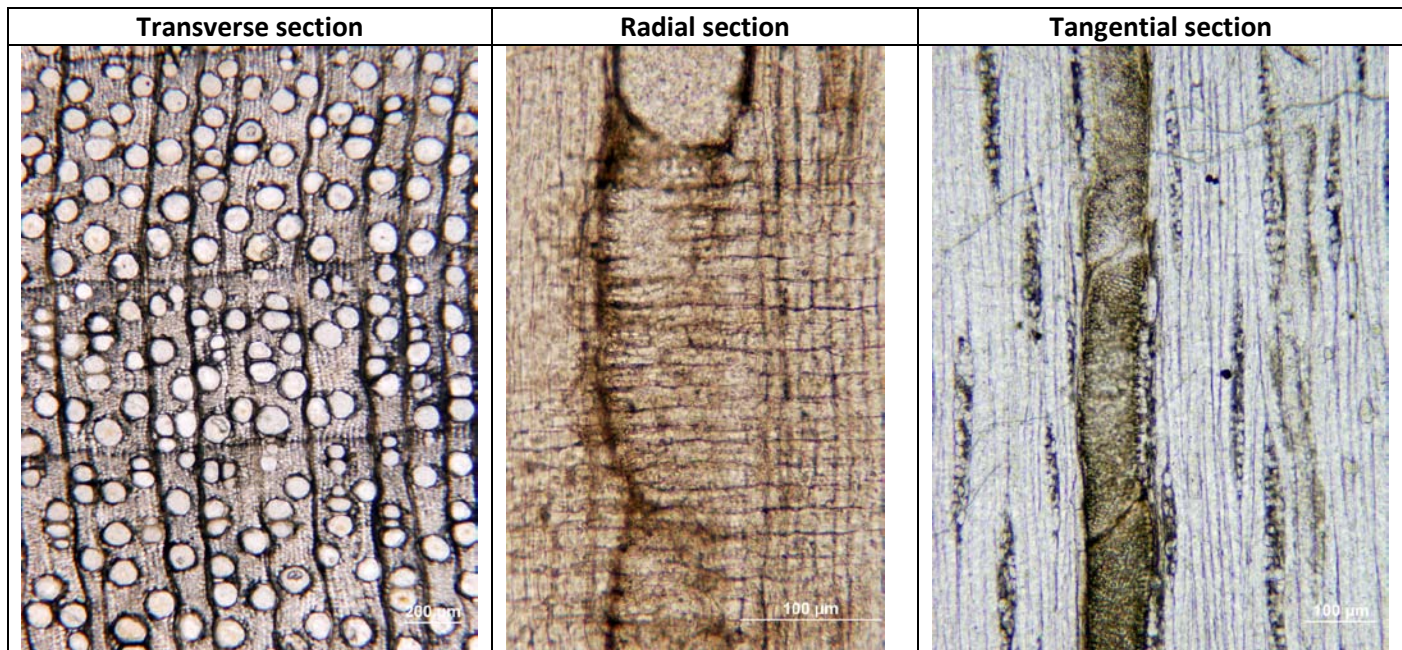


Richteroxylon micropunctatum

Family: Lauraceae

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 rings distinct, diffuse porous vessel arrangement. Vessels mostly solitary or in radial multiples of 2-3, solitary vessels round in outline. Perforation plates simple. Rays mostly biseriate, heterocellular with one row of square to upright cells. Oil cells sometimes present in rays. Axial parenchyma paratracheal, 2-4 cells per strand.

Discussion: This is a very rare type only reported as a single specimen from Vantage. Beck (1945) tentatively identified it as *Malus* (apple), but upon reexamination by Wheeler & Dillhoff (2009), the wood was determined to belong to the Lauraceae (laurel family). The anatomical features of this specimen did not match up with other fossil wood genera from the Lauraceae, and thus a new genus was established to describe it. See Wheeler & Dillhoff for a more complete description.

The laurel family is found in several of the Miocene leaf deposits on the margins of the Columbia River basalts. Leaves of *Sassafras* are commonly encountered, as well as *Persea* (*P. americana*, the avocado, is one well known member of this genus). This family is no longer native to the area today.



Fossil *Persea* leaf from the Miocene Clarkia locality of Idaho