

Dichrostachyoxylon occidentale

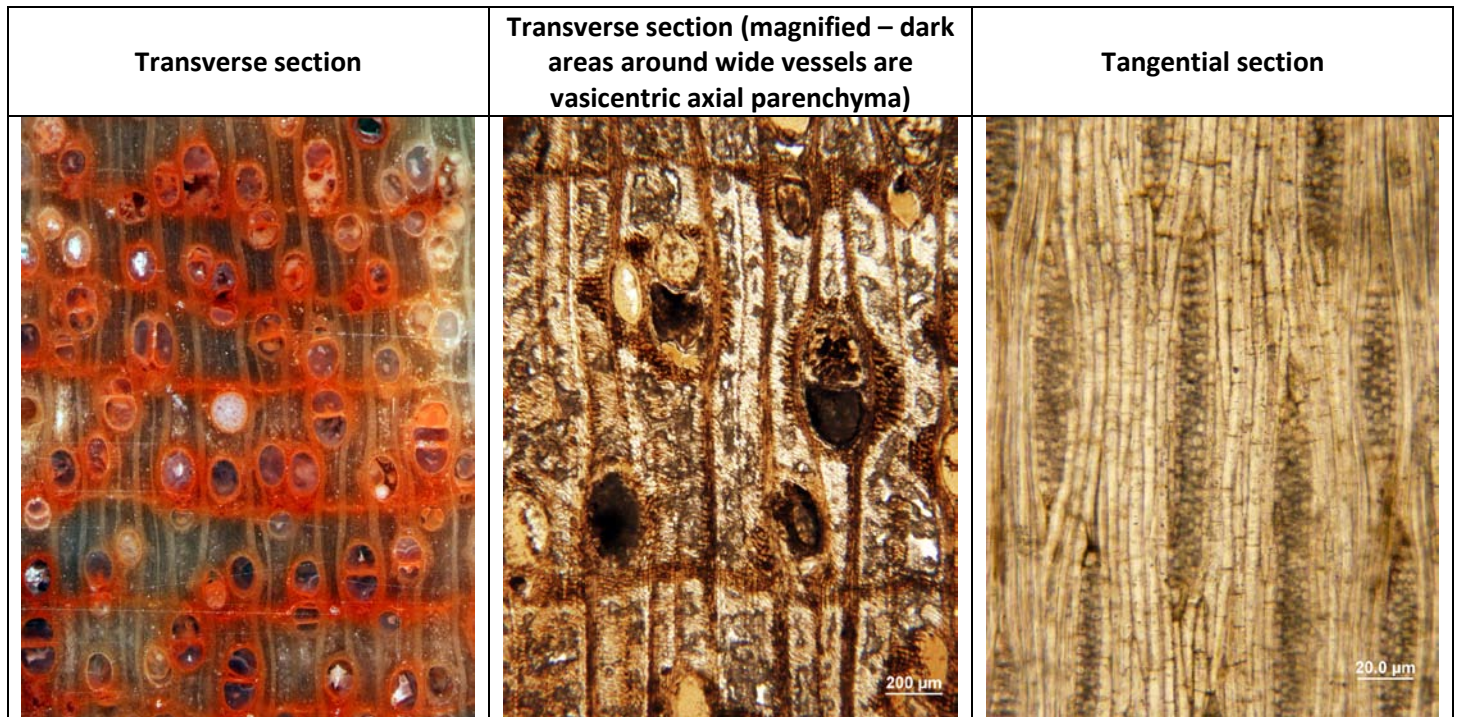
Family: Fabaceae

Synonym: *Leguminoxylon occidentale* Prakash & Barghoorn

Naming reference: 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.

Other references: Prakash, U. & E.S. Barghoorn. 1961. Miocene fossil woods from the Columbia basalts of central Washington, II. *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* XLII, 347-361.

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



Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

Diagnostic features: Distinct growth rings and diffuse porous vessel arrangement. Vessels are solitary and in radial multiples of 2-3, generally easy to see with a handlens and visible to naked eye (average tangential diameter = 167µm). Rays 1-5 seriate (1-2 seriate rays rare), homocellular. Vessel elements have simple perforation plates. Axial parenchyma vasicentric, lozenge-aliform, and distinct marginal bands generally 3-5 cells wide. 4-7 cells per strand.

Discussion: This is another of the legume woods from the Vantage assemblage. It is known from a single log that was nine feet in diameter. Small specimens of this wood are found in many collections; they are typically an attractive reddish-pink color with cream sections, and are often labeled as 'yellow birch'. The origin of the common name is not clear – it may be due to a misidentification, or there is also a story that the log was found by a park ranger with the surname 'Birch' and the wood was called after him.