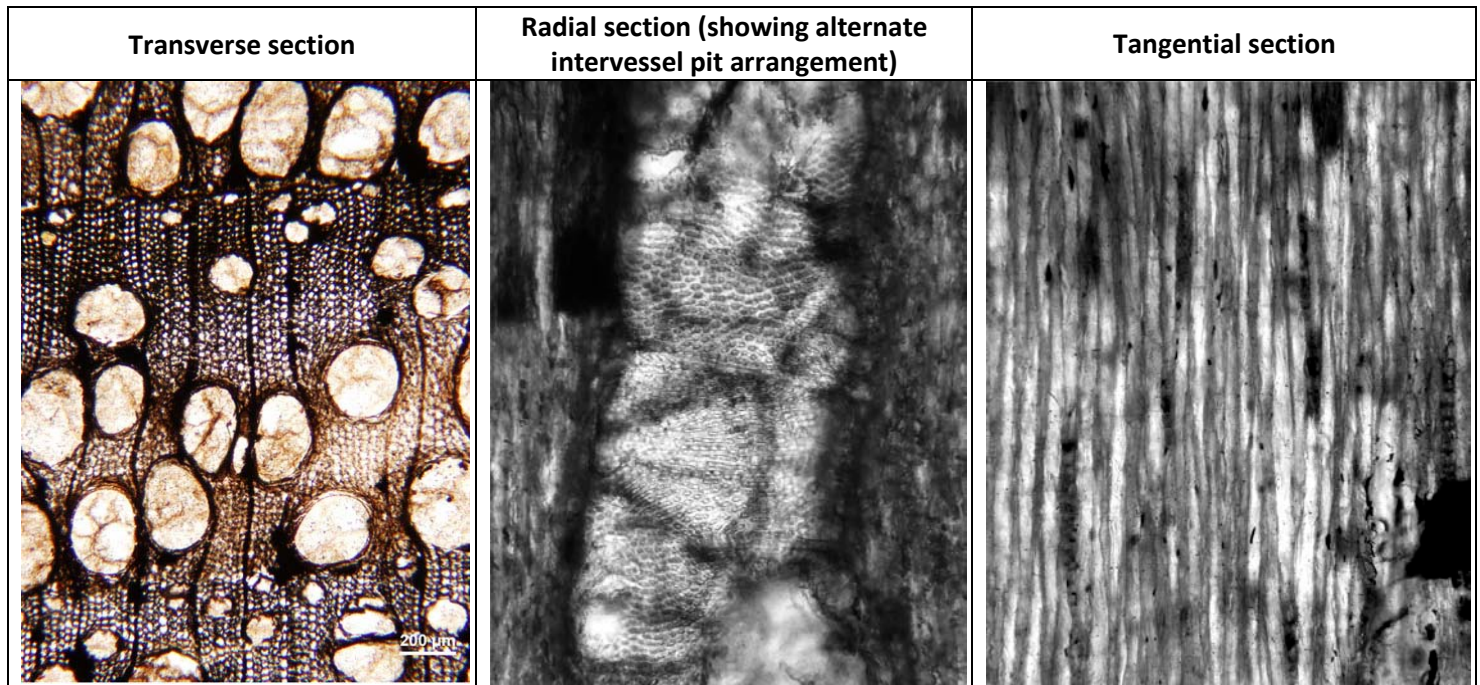


## **Fraxinus macropunctatum (ash)**

Family: Oleaceae

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 present, ring porous vessel arrangement. Earlywood zone is 2-3 vessels deep. Vessels are mostly solitary with a few radial multiples of 2-3. Earlywood vessels are wide, averaging over 200 microns in tangential diameter and have abundant tyloses. Rays are mostly uniseriate, with some biseriate. Body ray cells procumbent with shorter marginal cells that tend towards squarish in shape. Perforation plates simple. Axial parenchyma are scanty paratracheal to vasicentric.

Discussion: This is the more recently described of two ash species from the Columbia River Basalts, and is based on a single specimen from Vantage. It differs from *Fraxinus washingtoniana* in that it is ring porous and has larger intervessel pits that can be seen under high magnification in radial and tangential sections.

Ash wood has been reported from a number of the Columbia River Basalt wood localities, including Saddle Mountains, Yakima Canyon, and Vantage. Fossils of the genus have been found as far back in age as the early Eocene Quilchena fossil beds (~51.5 million years old) of southern British Columbia, and is still native to the northwest today.