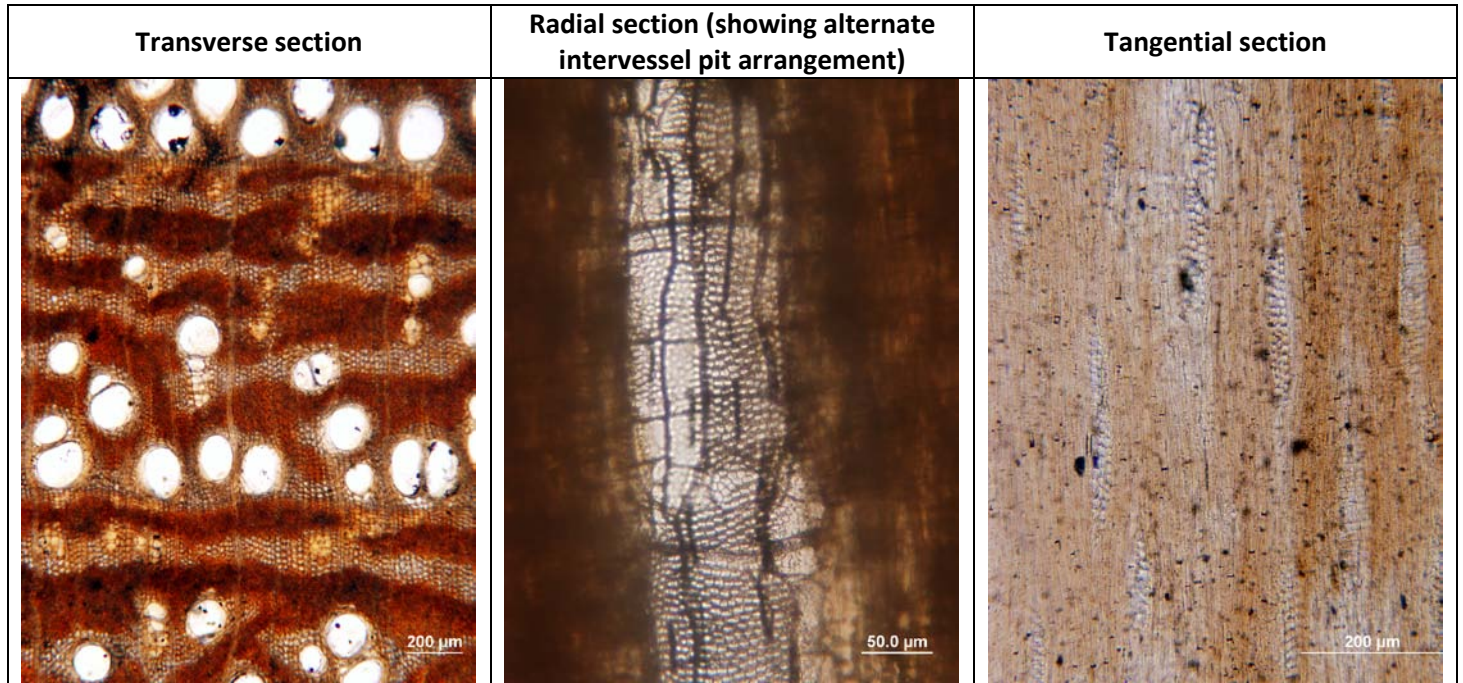


## **cf. *Sapindus***

Family: Sapindaceae

Naming reference: Wheeler, E.A. & Dillhoff, T.A. 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 >2 vessels deep, pores mostly solitary, not crowded. Sometimes a wide earlywood vessel is proximal to a radial multiple of smaller vessels. Latewood vessels mostly in clusters. Perforation plates simple, spiral thickenings are present in narrowest vessel elements. Rays 1-3(4) seriate, homocellular. Axial parenchyma aliform (mostly winged) to confluent banded. Latewood has broad bands of parenchyma intermingled with narrow vessels, mostly four cells per strand. Crystals occur in long strands of chambered cells, ~20 chambers per strand.

**Discussion:** This is a very rare type only reported as a single specimen from Vantage. Beck (1945) tentatively identified it as *Sapindus*. Wheeler & Dillhoff (2009) reviewed this type and concur that it does show affinity to modern ring porous *Sapindus* species, but given the absence of any confirmed leaves or fruits from the Tertiary of North America, were reluctant to confidently assign the wood to the modern genus. The abbreviation 'cf.' in the name above means 'confer' or 'compare', indicating the wood anatomy is similar to that genus. Modern *Sapindus* is native to temperate to tropical east Asia and southeastern North America down into northern South America. This disjunct distribution indicates that it is possible that the genus was present in western North America during the Tertiary.