

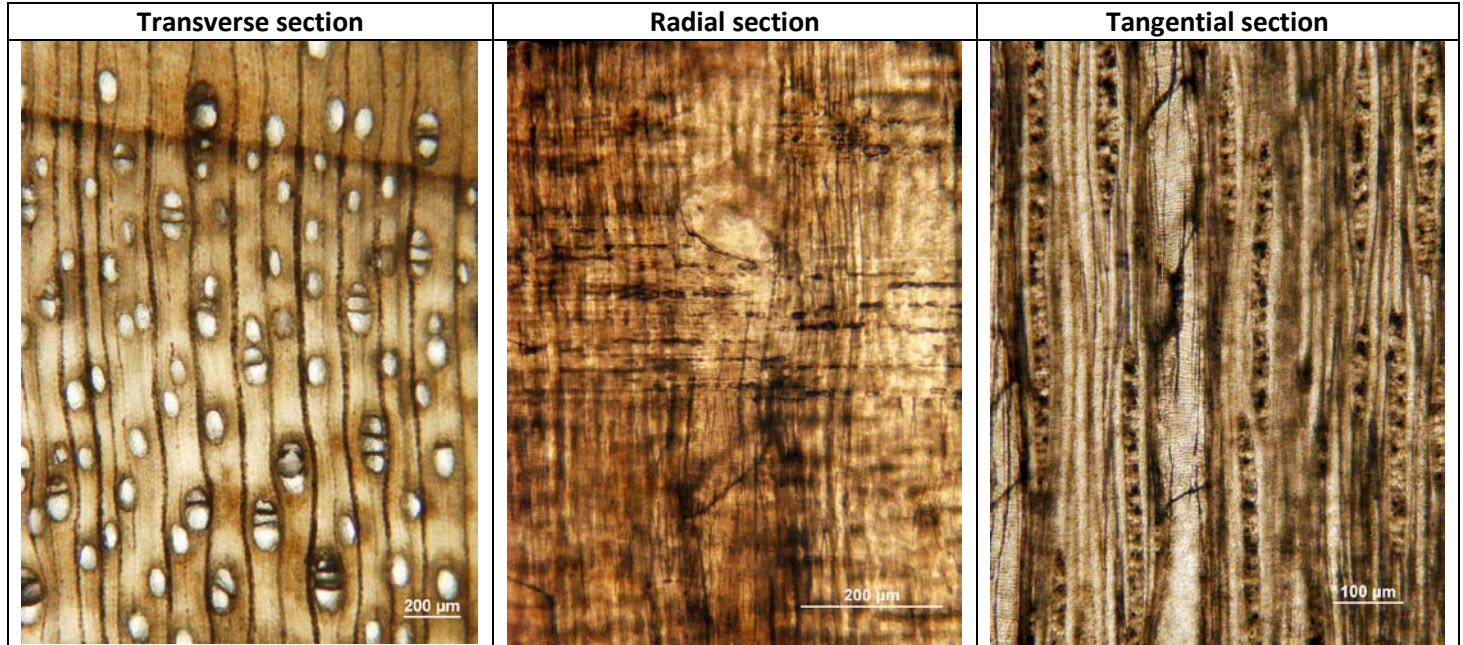
***Acer berkhoffii* (maple)**

Family: Sapindaceae

Synonyms: *Aceroxylon pennsylvanicum* Prakash 1968

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

Other reference: Prakash, U. 1968. Miocene fossil woods from the Columbia basalts of central Washington, III. Palaeontographica Bd. 122, 183-200



Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

Diagnostic features: Distinct growth rings and diffuse porous vessel arrangement. Approximately half of the vessels are solitary, plus there are short radial multiples. Perforation plates simple, with helical thickenings along the length of vessel elements (faintly visible in tangential section photo above). Rays 1-3 seriate, mostly 2-3, homocellular, narrow and not fusiform. Axial parenchyma are rare. Crystals not present in axial parenchyma strands.

Discussion: Four different species of fossil maple have been described from wood deposits of the Columbia River Basalts. This particular species is one of three that fall into the 'soft maple' group with narrower rays. This species is separated from the other two soft maples by its narrow, non-fusiform rays and it is one of two species that lacks crystals.

Beck (1945) listed maple as a common element of the Umtanum, Yakima Canyon, and Vantage wood assemblages. It has also been reported from Yakima Ridge and Squaw Creek/Badger Pocket. Fossilized maple leaves and seeds are commonly found in Cenozoic floras throughout the Pacific Northwest, and there are still several species native to the area today.



Fossil maple leaf from the Miocene Clarkia flora of Idaho