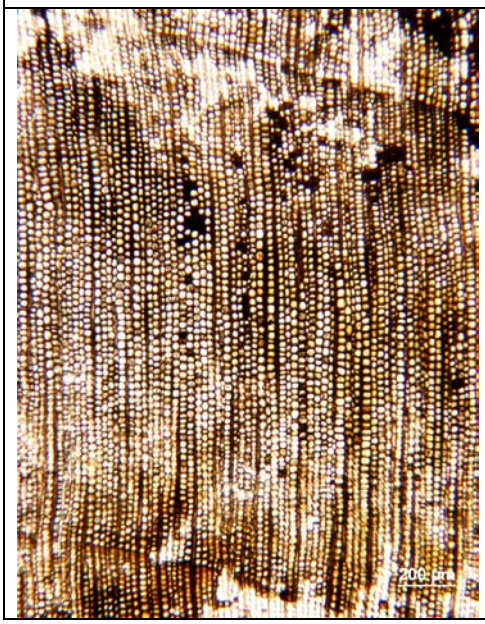
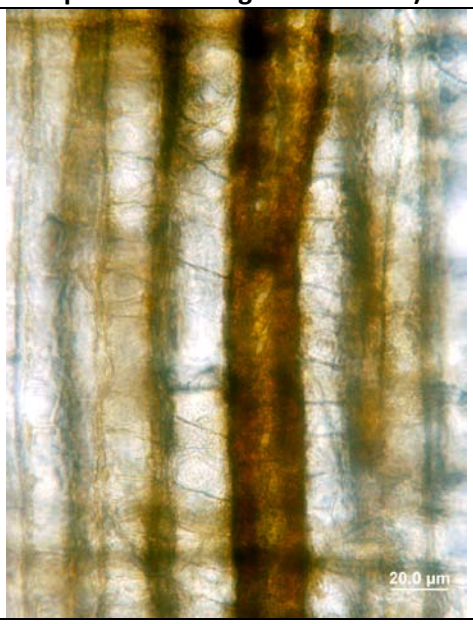
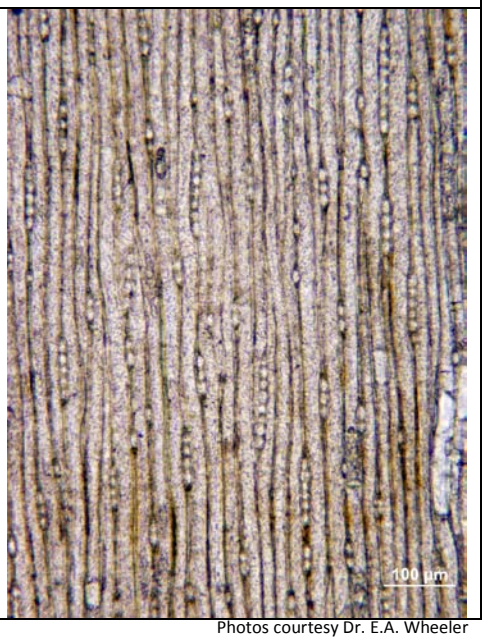
***Taxus* sp. (yew)**

Family: Taxaceae

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

Transverse section	Radial section (note widely spaced spiral thickenings in tracheids)	Tangential section
		

Photos courtesy Dr. E.A. Wheeler

Diagnostic features: Growth rings present, gradual transition to latewood zone. Tracheids somewhat variable in size. Widely spaced helical thickenings present in tracheids, horizontal and axial resin canals absent. Rays uniseriate, short (avg. 4 cells high). Cross-field pitting not clearly observed in this Vantage sample, but in modern *Taxus* cross-field pits are cupressoid. Axial parenchyma not observed.

Discussion: This is a rare wood type. In the Columbia River Basalts, it is known only from the Vantage area. The presence of spiral thickenings in the longitudinal tracheids and the absence of horizontal and axial resin canals indicate that this wood belongs to the yew family. The fact that the spiral thickenings occur singly and not in pairs places the wood in the genus *Taxus.* Although this is a new type, Wheeler & Dillhoff (2009) did not assign a species epithet since even modern species of yew are impossible to separate based on wood anatomy alone.