

Abstract published in American Journal of Botany, Vol. 52, No. 6, Part 2

Berry (1916) described and illustrated 6 species of Sapindus leaflets from Eocene deposits of Henry County, Tennessee. These species were differentiated solely on variations in shape, size, and venation of often isolated leaflets. A large number of well-preserved isolated sapindaceous leaflets (over 400) from Eocene deposits in this same area, Henry County, Tennessee, were examined in this study. In these leaflets both the entire range of morphological characters of Berry's 6 species and numerous intermediate forms were found. All of the leaflets, regardless of variation in shape, size, or venation, were found to have similar cuticular characters. Therefore, the 6 species of Sapindus recognized by Berry in 1916 (S. linearifolius, S. mississippiensis, S. formosus, S. eoligniticus, S. knowltoni, S. pseudaffinis) probably represent natural variations of a single species. On the basis of cuticular characters the leaflets in this study, which previously would have been identified as Sapindus, appear to be related not to the genus Sapindus but to another taxon in the Sapindaceae.

David L. Dilcher
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut