

CUTICULAR ANALYSIS OF EOCENE LEAVES OF THE LAURACEAE

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Leaves belonging to the Lauraceae have been examined as part of a study of the Wilcox flora on the basis of cuticular analysis. This flora was described by E. W. Berry in 1916 and 1930. The genus Ocotea, previously classified as Oreodaphne, occurs abundantly in this flora. Oreodaphne obtusifolia, the particular species of concern here, often is found with well-preserved cuticular material which may be mounted on slides and studied in considerable detail. The upper epidermis consists of very regularly shaped cells, while the lower epidermal cells appear more angular. Stomata occur typically on the lower epidermis, with 2 subsidiary cells enclosing the guard cells. Glandular bases are also very abundant on the lower epidermis. The preserved cuticle of these leaves shows features found in many of the genera of the modern Lauraceae, particularly the modern genus Ocotea.

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