CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD A

FLORA OF WYOMING

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THE ACERACEAE OF WYOMING

by

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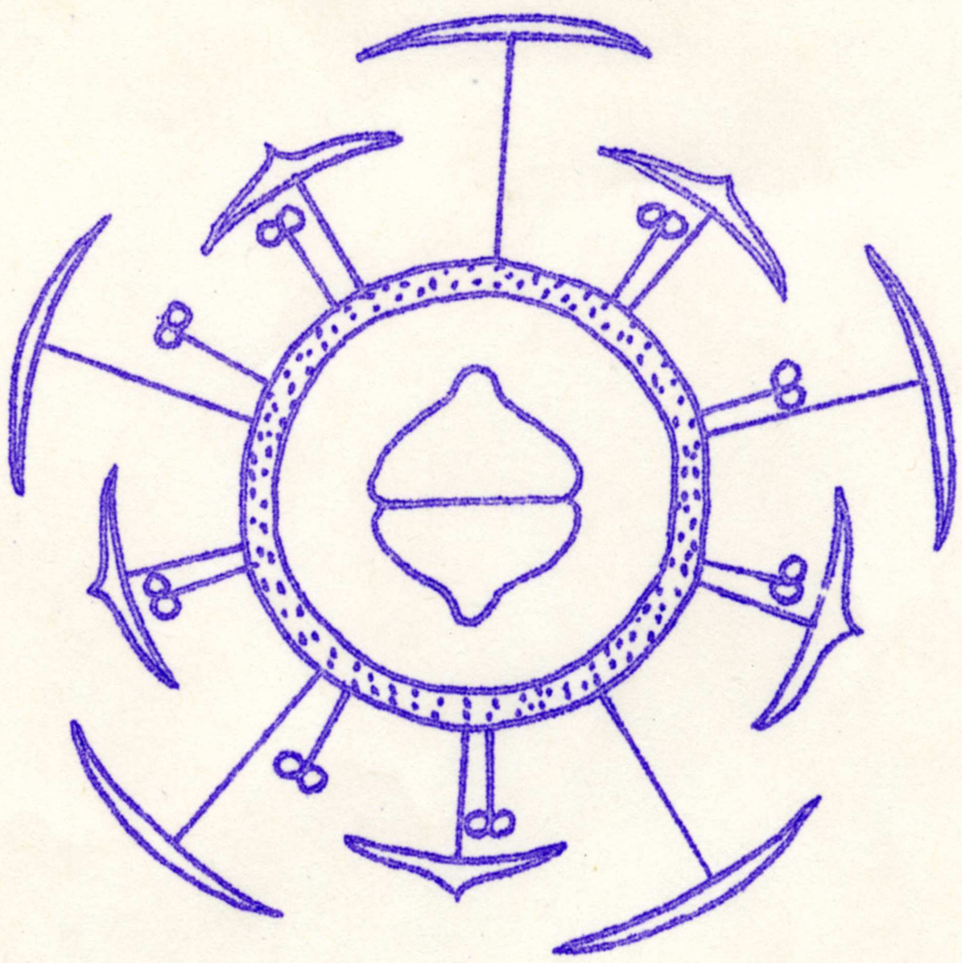
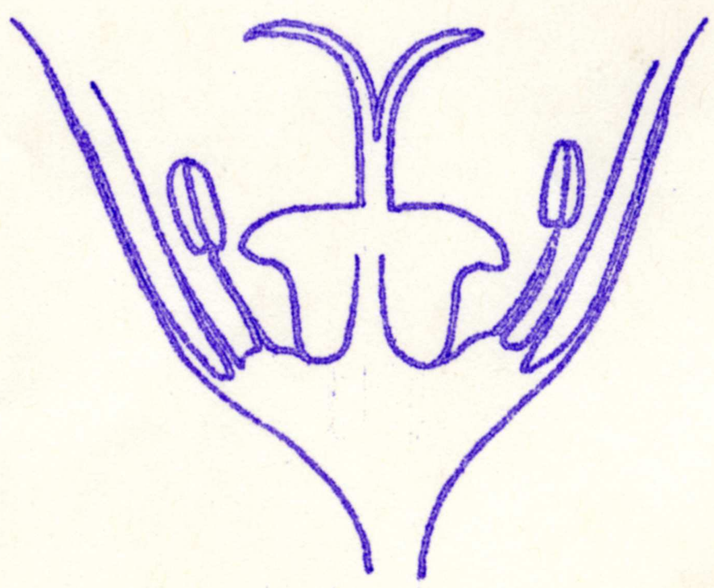
Leaflet No. 4.

The Rocky Mountain Herbarium
University of Wyoming
Laramie

ACERACEAE Maple Family

Trees or shrubs with sweetish watery sap and opposite, palmately lobed or pinnately compound, long-petioled leaves without stipules (rarely with palmately trifoliate leaves). Flowers regular, polygamous, dioecious, or sometimes perfect, in a lateral fascicle, or in racemes, panicles, or corymbs, appearing before or with the leaves. Sepals mostly 5. Petals usually 5 or none. Stamens 4-12 (mostly 7-8), attached to a fleshy disk surrounding the pistil. Pistils 2-lobed and 2-celled, flattened and winged along the back. Fruit a paired samara, each half with a long wing and 1-seeded.





Floral diagram (above) and longitudinal section (below) of a perfect flower of Acer glabrum.

ACER L. Maple

With the characters of the family.

Key to the species

Leaves simple and 3-5-lobed, or sometimes palmately 3-foliate; flowers polygamous or sometimes perfect

Leaves thin, glabrous, with numerous acute teeth; flowers with sepals and petals; inflorescence long-stalked. Plants shrubby

Leaf blades 3-5-lobed but not deeply parted nor 3-foliate

Blades mostly less than 6 cm. wide, the sinuses narrow - 1. A. glabrum

Blades mostly 6-11 cm. wide or more, the sinuses broad - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 1a. A glabrum var. Douglasii

Leaf blades 3-parted nearly or quite to the base, often appearing 3-foliate - - - - - - - - - - - - - 1b. A glabrum var. tripartitum

Leaves somewhat leathery, usually pubescent beneath, with a few large and coarse teeth; flowers apetalous; inflorescence nearly sessile. Plants arborescent - - - - - - - - - 2. A. grandidentatum

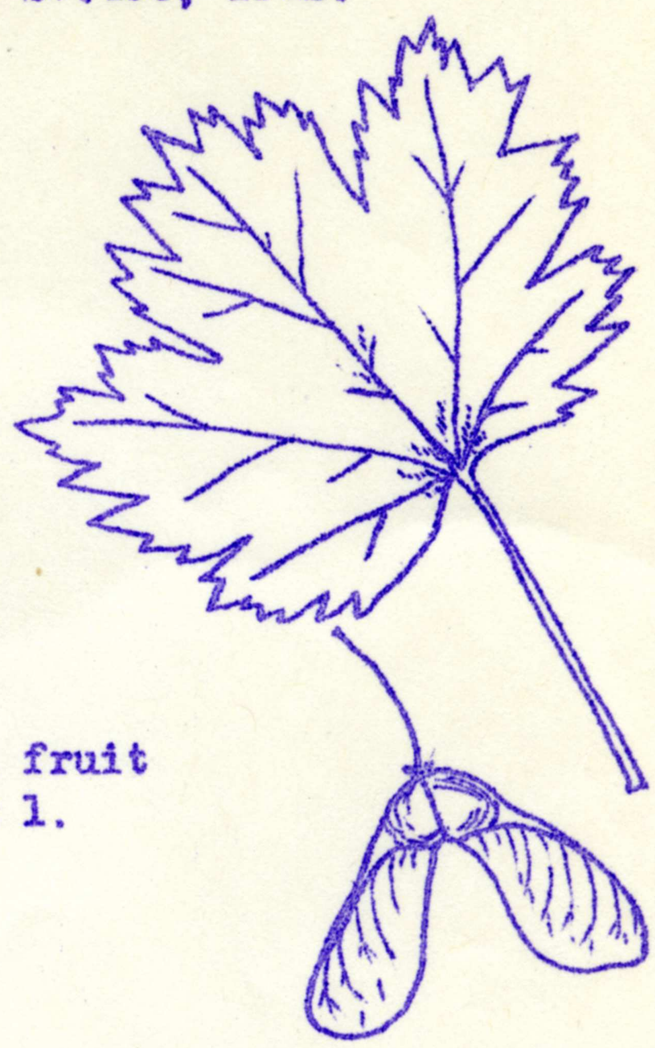
Leaves pinnately compound, with 3-5 leaflets; flowers dioecious, apetalous. Plants arborescent - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 3. A. Negundo var. interior

1. ACER GLABRUM Torr., Ann. Lyc. N. Y. 2:172, 1828. Rocky Mountain Maple

Acer glabrum subsp. *typicum* Wesmael, Bull. Soc. Bot. Belgique 29:46, 1890.
Acer glabrum var. *monophyllum* Graf von Schwerin, Gartenfl. 42:650, 1893, in part.
Acer glabrum var. *typicum* Keller, Am. Midl. Nat. 27:493, 1942.

A common shrub of rocky canyons and hillsides at medium to high elevations.

Albany, Carbon, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, and Teton counties, and Yellowstone National Park. Map 1.

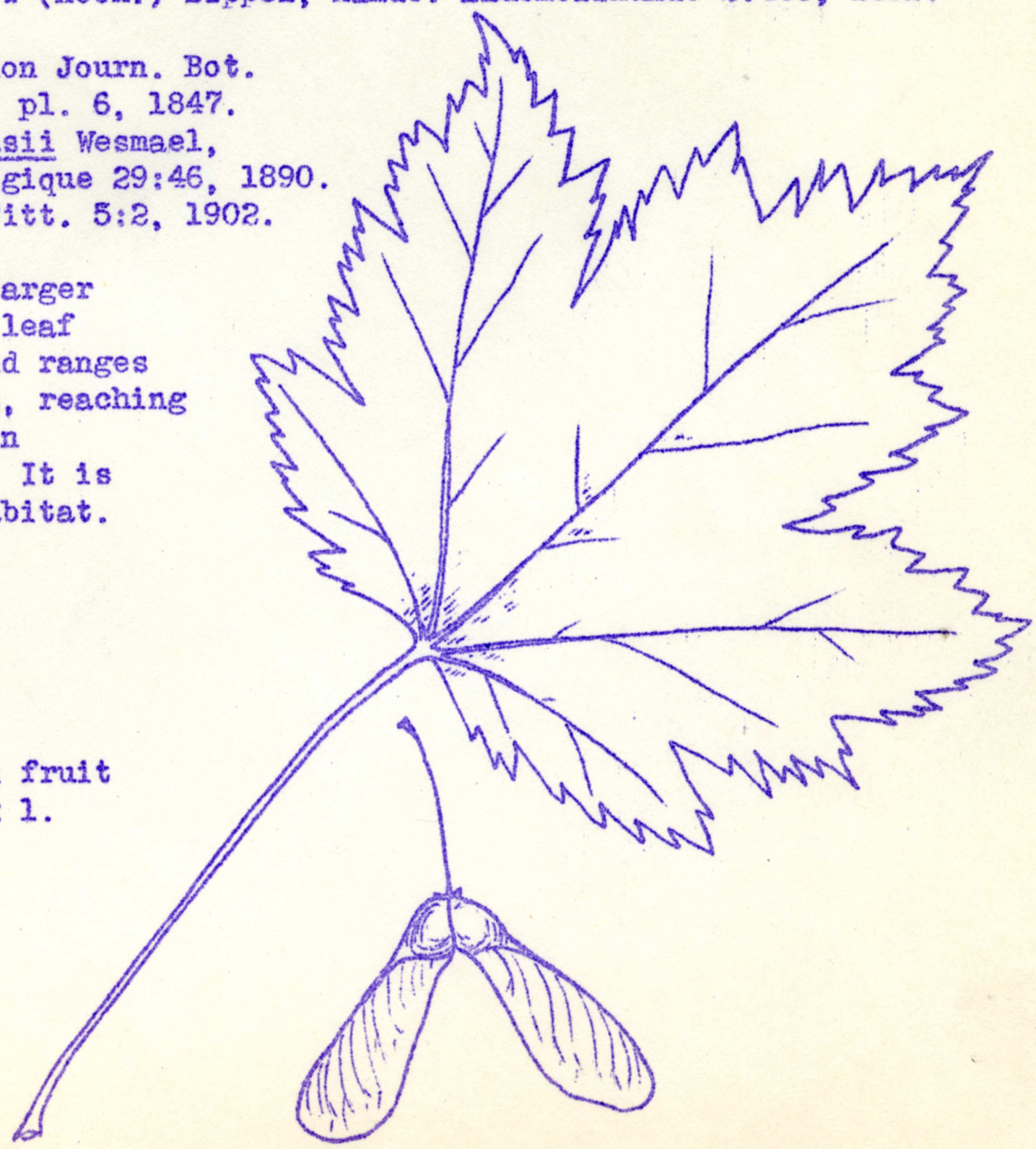


Leaf and fruit
x 1.

1a. ACER GLABRUM VAR. DOUGLASII (Hook.) Dippel, Handb. Laubholzkunde 2:438, 1892.

Acer Douglasii Hook., London Journ. Bot. 6:77, pl. 6, 1847.
Acer glabrum subsp. *Douglasii* Wesmael, Bull. Soc. Bot. Belgique 29:46, 1890.
Acer subserratum Greene, Pitt. 5:2, 1902.

This variety is somewhat larger throughout, especially in leaf size, than the species, and ranges in the northwestern States, reaching only the edge of Wyoming in Yellowstone National Park. It is said to prefer a wooded habitat. Map 1.



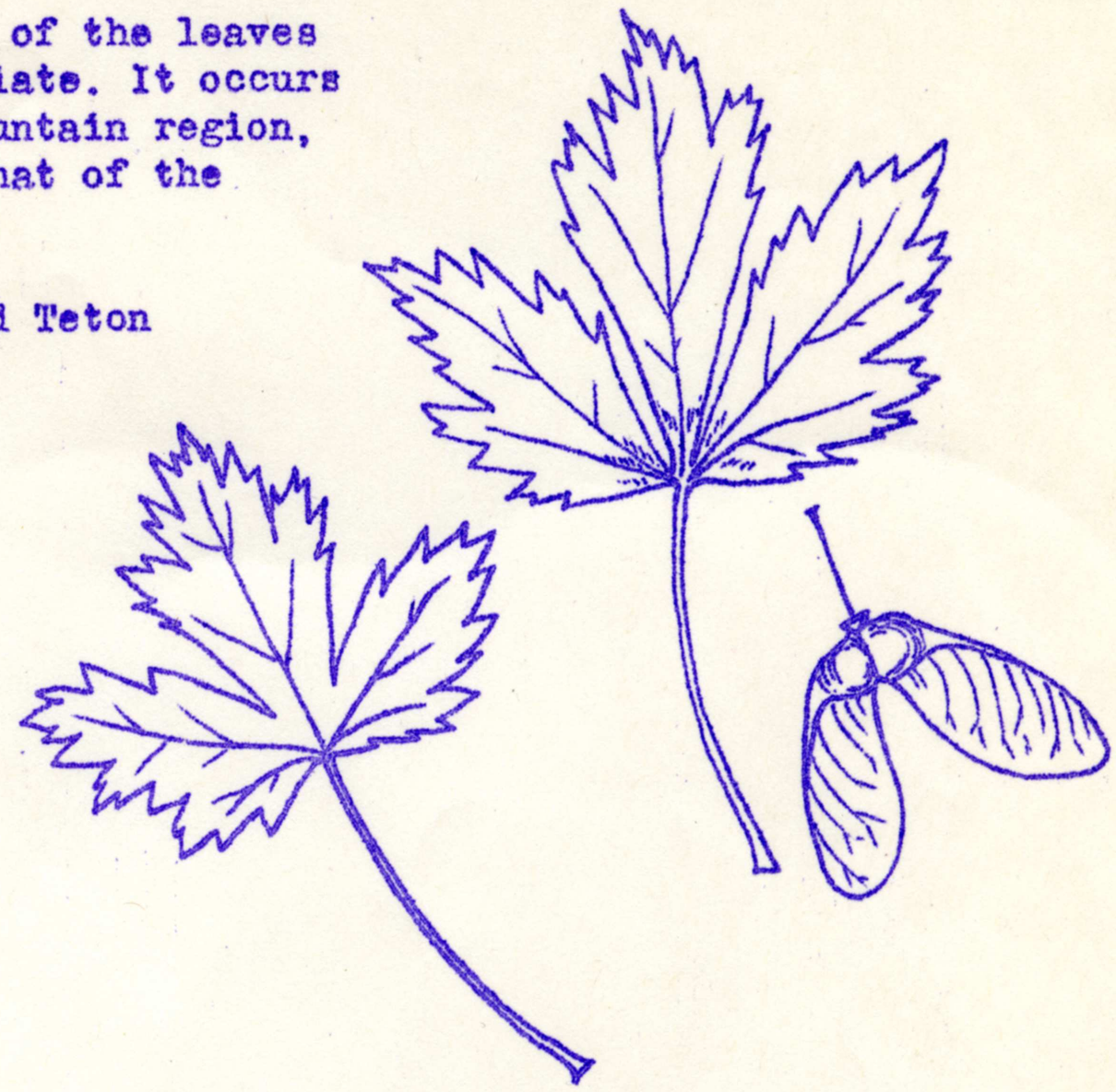
Leaf and fruit
x 1.

1b. ACER GLABRUM VAR. TRIPARTITUM (Nutt.) Pax, in Engler, Bot. Jahrb. 7:218, 1886.

Acer tripartitum Nutt. in Torr. & Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 1:247, 1840.
Acer glabrum f. trisectum Sarg., Journ. Arnold. Arbor. 2:166, 1921.

A variety having at least some of the leaves deeply 3-parted or even trifoliate. It occurs mainly in the central Rocky Mountain region, and has a habitat similar to that of the species.

Johnson, Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties. Map 1.



Leaves and fruit
x 1.

2. ACER GRANDIDENTATUM Nutt. in Torr. & Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 1:247, 1838.
Bigtooth Maple.

In gullies and canyons at medium elevations.

Lincoln and Uinta counties. Map 2.

Leaf and fruit
x 1.

3. ACER NEGUNDO VAR. INTERIUS (Britt.) Sarg., Bot. Gaz. 67:239, 1919.
Western Boxelder.

Acer interior Britt., N. Am. Trees 655, 1908.
Negundo interius Rydb., Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 40:56, 1913.

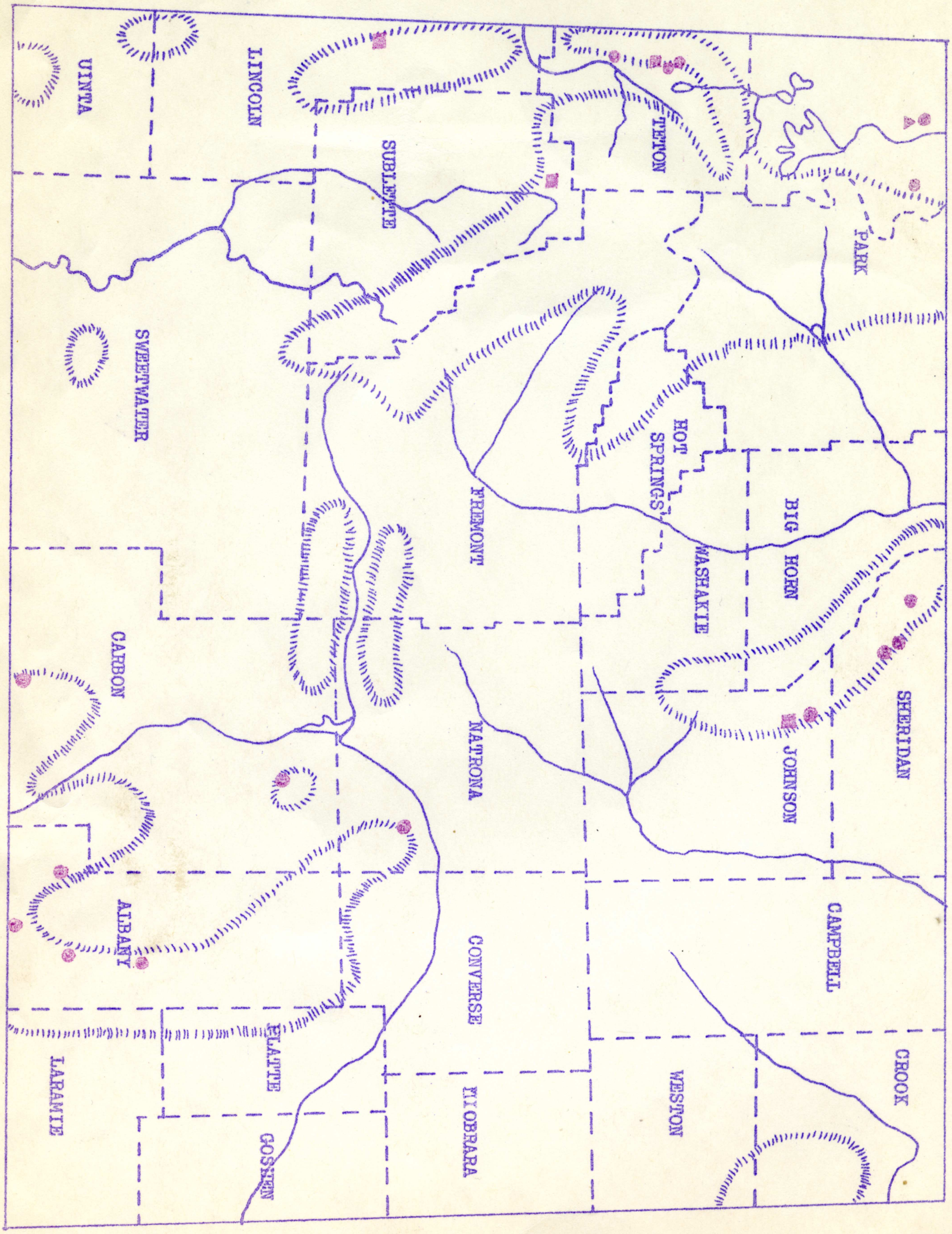
The western variety of the common eastern Boxelder differs from the species in having somewhat thicker leaves which are pubescent on the petioles, rachis, and on the under side of the blades. It is fairly common along watercourses at medium to low elevations, and is frequently planted for ornament and shade.

Albany, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, and Platte counties, and probably elsewhere. Map 2.

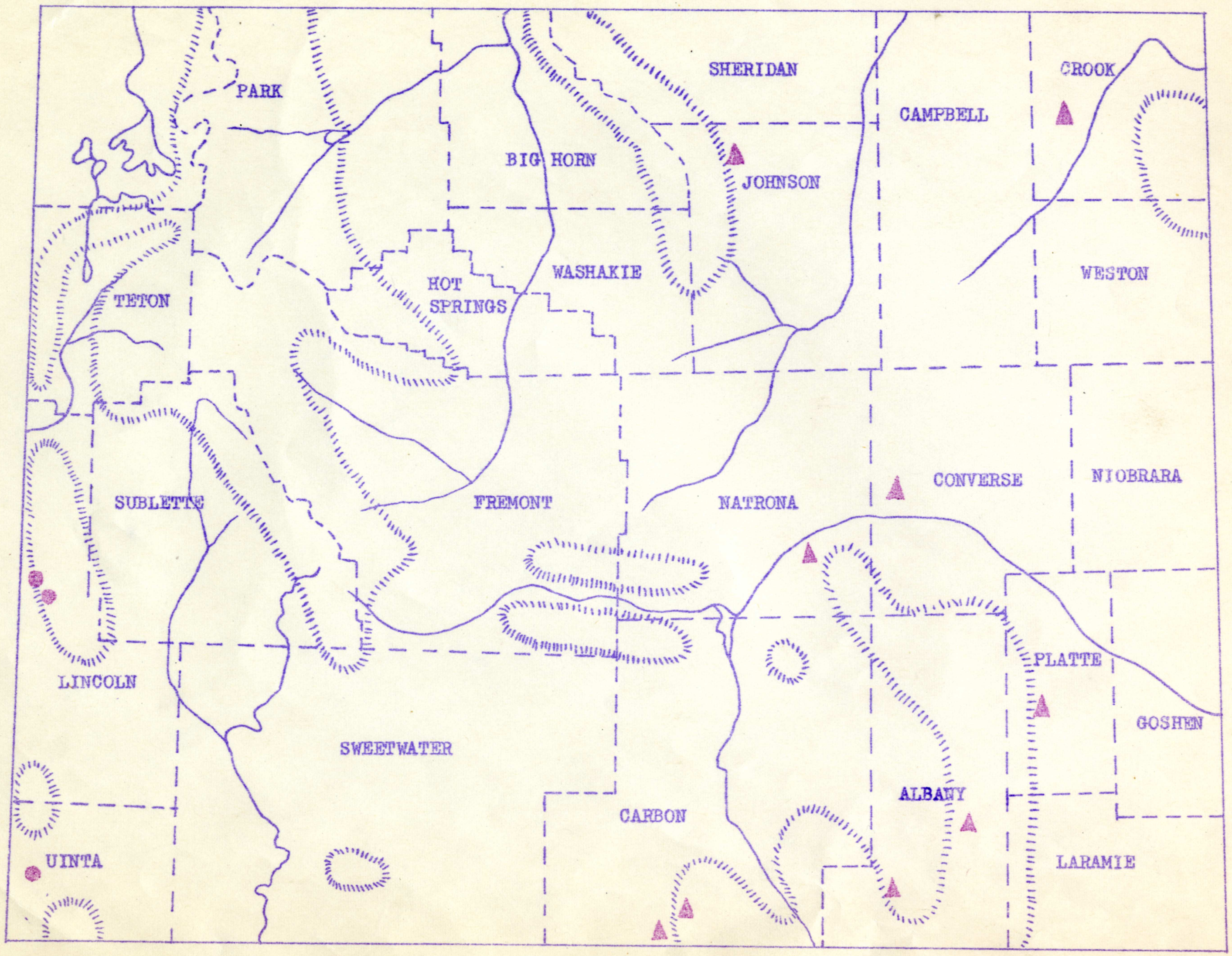
Leaf and fruit
x 1.

Acer glabrum - - - - - - - - - - - ●
Acer glabrum var. Douglasii - - ▲
Acer glabrum var. tripartitum - ■

Map 1.



Map 2.



Acer grandidentatum - ●
Acer Negundo var. interius - ▲