

SAPOTACEAE – SAPODILLA FAMILY

Plant: shrubs and trees, often with milky sap

Stem: often spiny

Root:

Leaves: simple, alternate and/or fascicled (clustered); some evergreen, stipulate or not

Flowers: perfect, flowers solitary or in clusters, regular to irregular; 4-8 sepals, 3-6 or 8-10 petals, usually whorled (see individual genus descriptions in literature); 4 to many stamens, often adnate (often with staminodes); ovary superior

Fruit: berry, usually fleshy

Other: widespread in world; tropical to sub-tropical mostly; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 53+ genera (much debate over number of genera); locally Sideroxylon (Buckthorn)

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Woolly Buckthorn [Gum Bumelia; Gum Bully; Chittim Wood] *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* Michx. ssp. *oblongifolium* (Nutt.) T.D. Penn.

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Sapotaceae (Sapodilla Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County, Missouri

Notes: small tree (or shrub); flowers, small, white to yellowish-white, 5 fused petals, at stem leaf axis; leaves fairly small (up to 8+ cm), alternate or clustered (fascicled) near branch ends, simple, widest toward tip, tip rounded, shiny dark green above, paler and densely hairy below (white to gray to somewhat rusty), hairs with 2 arms on stalk; bark gray to brown with grooves; twigs with thorns, often with milky sap; fruit a black shiny berry, on short pedicels; summer (two similar subspecies)

[V Max Brown, 2017]

