

EBENACEAE – EBONY FAMILY

Plant: shrubs and trees, milky juice

Stem: woody

Root:

Leaves: simple, thick or leathery, entire, mostly alternate, sometimes opposite or whorled; no stipules

Flowers: perfect but mostly imperfect (dioecious); small, solitary or several, often along twigs; 3-7 sepals; 3-7 petals, often leathery; stamens equal or 2-3X petals; 3 to many stamens; ovary superior, 2 to several styles and stigmas, 2-16 carpels

Fruit: berry or drupe, often fleshy, sometimes edible

Other: persimmons locally but widespread in world; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 2+ genera; locally *Diospyros* (persimmon)

EBENACEAE – EBONY FAMILY

Persimmon; *Diospyros virginiana* L.

Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana L.

Ebenaceae (Ebony Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County, Missouri

Notes: tree, small to medium; dioecious, pistillate flower 4-lobed and yellow; leaves alternate, lanceolate-ovate with sharp tip; bark gray to black, deeply divided into blocks; twigs gray-brown, hairy or not; winter buds blunt (not acute) with 2+ scales; green fruit turning orange, edible but astringent if not ripe; spring

[V Max Brown, 2006]

