

RUTACEAE – RUE (CITRUS) FAMILY

Plant: shrubs, trees and rarely herbs

Stem: bark aromatic

Root:

Leaves: simple, alternate or opposite, compound (pinnate to palmate) or 3's; somewhat transparent; aromatic; glandular; no stipules

Flowers: mostly perfect to unisexual on different plants; (3)4-5 sepals; (3)4-5 petals; stamens mostly (3-) 8-10 (+), often 2X of petals; ovary superior to inferior, 4-5+ carpels, mostly 1 pistil

Fruit: capsule, berry, drupe or winged seed – strong citrus aroma

Other: mostly tropical; citrus fruits; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 150+ genera; locally *Ptelea* (hop-tree), *Ruta* (rue), *Zanthoxylum* (prickly ash)

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Common Hoptree [Wafer Ash]; *Ptelea trifoliata* L. ssp. *Trifoliata*

Common Prickly Ash [Toothache Tree]; *Zanthoxylum americanum* Mill.

Common Hoptree [Wafer Ash]

Ptelea trifoliata L. ssp. *trifoliata*

Rutaceae (Rue or Citrus Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub to small tree; flowers green, small; leaves 3-foliolate, sessile or nearly so, mostly entire or with small teeth, somewhat hairy beneath, aromatic when crushed; bark smooth, prominent pores; branchlets mostly glabrous; winter buds hairy; fruit of dangling clusters (cymes) of round samaras; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Common Prickly Ash [Toothache Tree]

Zanthoxylum americanum Mill.

Rutaceae (Rue or Citrus Family)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene County,
Missouri

Notes: shrub (often in thickets); monoecious, flowers yellowish-green, minute, in clusters at nodes; leaves pinnately compound, 5-11 leaflets, side leaflets sessile, end leaflet stalked, entire or finely toothed, upper surface with glands; bark smooth and blotched, twigs with spines; fruit red-green-brown and fleshy with a glossy black seed; summer

[V Max Brown, 2010]

