Viburnum prunifolium L.

Black Haw Stem Bark

Viburni prunifolii Cortex

Caprifoliaceae

Black haw is not widely known in North America and Europe, though it has been used in a manner that is similar to that for cramp bark, *Viburnum opalus*, and for as long a period of a time. Like cramp bark, black haw has a long history of use by Native Americans and is similarly used as a uterine tonic; however, it is not as prevalently used as a smooth muscle relaxant as cramp bark is. These two species can be confused in trade.

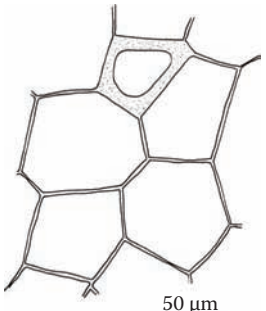
Surface view: Cork consists of reddish brown polygonal cells.

Transverse section: Cork of reddish brown polygonal cells with occasional embedded sclereids; cortex consists of slightly thickened parenchyma cells containing oil droplets, infrequent fibers, and abundant calcium oxalate cluster crystals 10–30 µm diameter and calcium oxalate prisms up to 20 µm long—cortex may be absent; secondary phloem consists of parenchyma containing oil droplets and calcium oxalate prisms up to 20 µm long; large spheroidal groups of yellow sclereids occur; medullary rays are one or two cells broad.

Longitudinal section: Spindle-like fibers in the primary cortex; groups of sclereids are highly elongated axially; calcium oxalate prisms are arranged in rows.

Starch: Infrequent in the cortex, may be absent; simple, subspherical granules are 2–6 µm diameter, with an indistinct hilum.

Powder: Aggregates of yellow sclereids; parenchyma with calcium oxalate cluster crystals or prisms and oil droplets; fragments of the cork; infrequent fibers.



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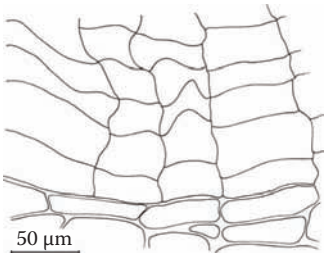

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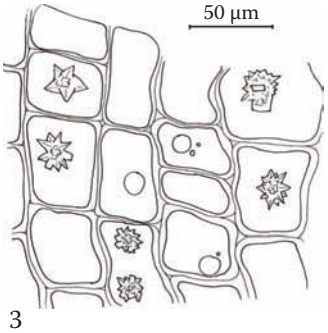

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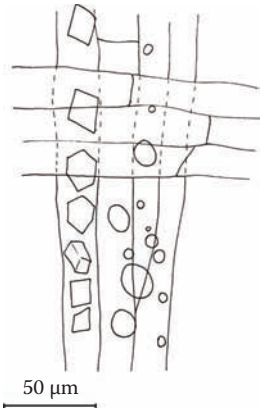

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