



RED BIRCH

(Bursera simaruba)

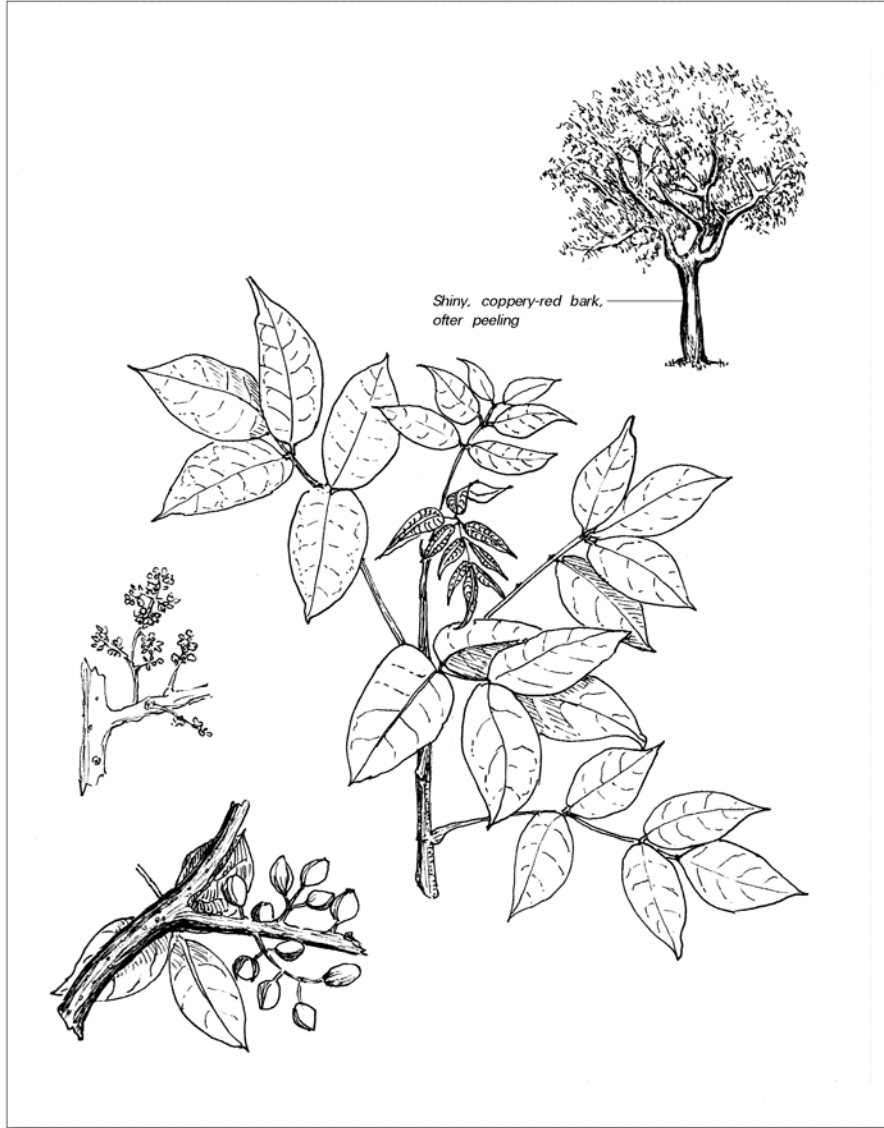
This native of Florida, West Indies and Central America can grow to 18 m. The bark of the tree is coppery-red and smooth and is often seen peeling. Its colour makes it very conspicuous in its dry limestone habitat.

When the trunk is cut a thick glue which smells like turpentine exudes. The leaves are 10 - 2 cm long and consist of leaflets that can grow to 7 cm long. The flowers are greenish and the fruit small, dark red and oblong. This tree is deciduous shedding its leaves during the months of March and April.

The wood is white, soft, light and used to make matchsticks and packing boxes.

RED BIRCH (*Bursera simaruba*)

Family: Burseraceae	Species: <i>Bursera simaruba</i>	Author: (L.) Sarg. Gard & For.
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Height: 18m	Habitat: Sea level-1000m	Persistence: Evergreen
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