

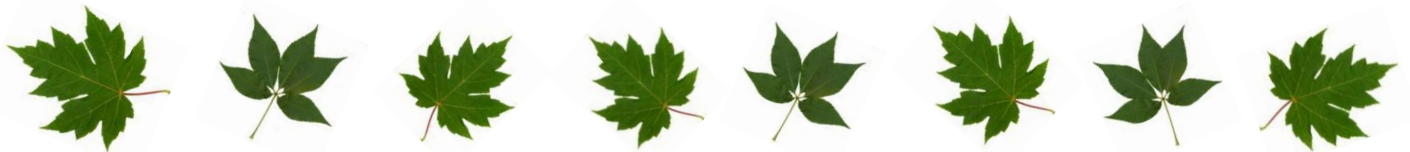
SAMPLE SPECIES PRACTICE - 2024

(BACKYARD SPECIES)

HOW TO USE THE PRACTICE SAMPLES:

1. Get out your "Leaf Characteristics" packet. Look for examples of those characteristics in the leaf scans provided.
2. Use the "Mini Summer Leaf Key (Selected Backyard Species)" below to practice using a key to identify each of the leaves. You will only be able to do this if you understand the leaf characteristics first.

**Remember, there are too many tree species to try to memorize them all. It's better to learn the skills and concepts a forester uses to identify a tree, like how to use a dichotomous key.*



MINI SUMMER LEAF KEY (SELECTED BACKYARD SPECIES)

- Choose one plant sample to identify (it may be several pages).
- Read the two choices for #1. Choose which choice, A or B, is the most like your sample.
- Go to the number listed after your choice. Continue following the numbers of the key until you find the name of your sample.
- Write down the steps you choose as you go like this: 1A, 2B, 4A...
- Then record the species common name.

WHAT IS A DICHOTOMOUS KEY?

A tool for identifying plants or animals based on choices between alternative characteristics. Dichotomy is the distinct difference between two things.

1A. The leaves are evergreen... Go to 2

1B. The leaves are deciduous... Go to 5

2A. The leaves are needle-like... Go to 3

2B. The leaves are scale-like or broad and flat... Go to 4

3A. The needles are attached singly to branches and are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long... Eastern Hemlock

3B. The needles are in clusters of 5 and are 2.5-5 inches long... Eastern White Pine

4A. The leaves are short and scale-like... Eastern Redcedar

4B. The leaves are broad and flat with a spiny, toothed margin... American Holly

5A. The leaves are compound... Go to 6

5B. The leaves are simple... Go to 7

6A. The leaves are pinnately compound and the leaflets are finely toothed... Black Walnut

6B. The leaves are palmately compound, and the three leaflets might have coarse (large) teeth... Poison Ivy

7A. The leaves have an opposite branching pattern... Go to 8

7B. The leaves have an alternate branching pattern... Go to 9

8A. The leaves have a smooth margin... Flowering Dogwood

8B. The leaves have 5 lobes and toothed margin... Silver Maple

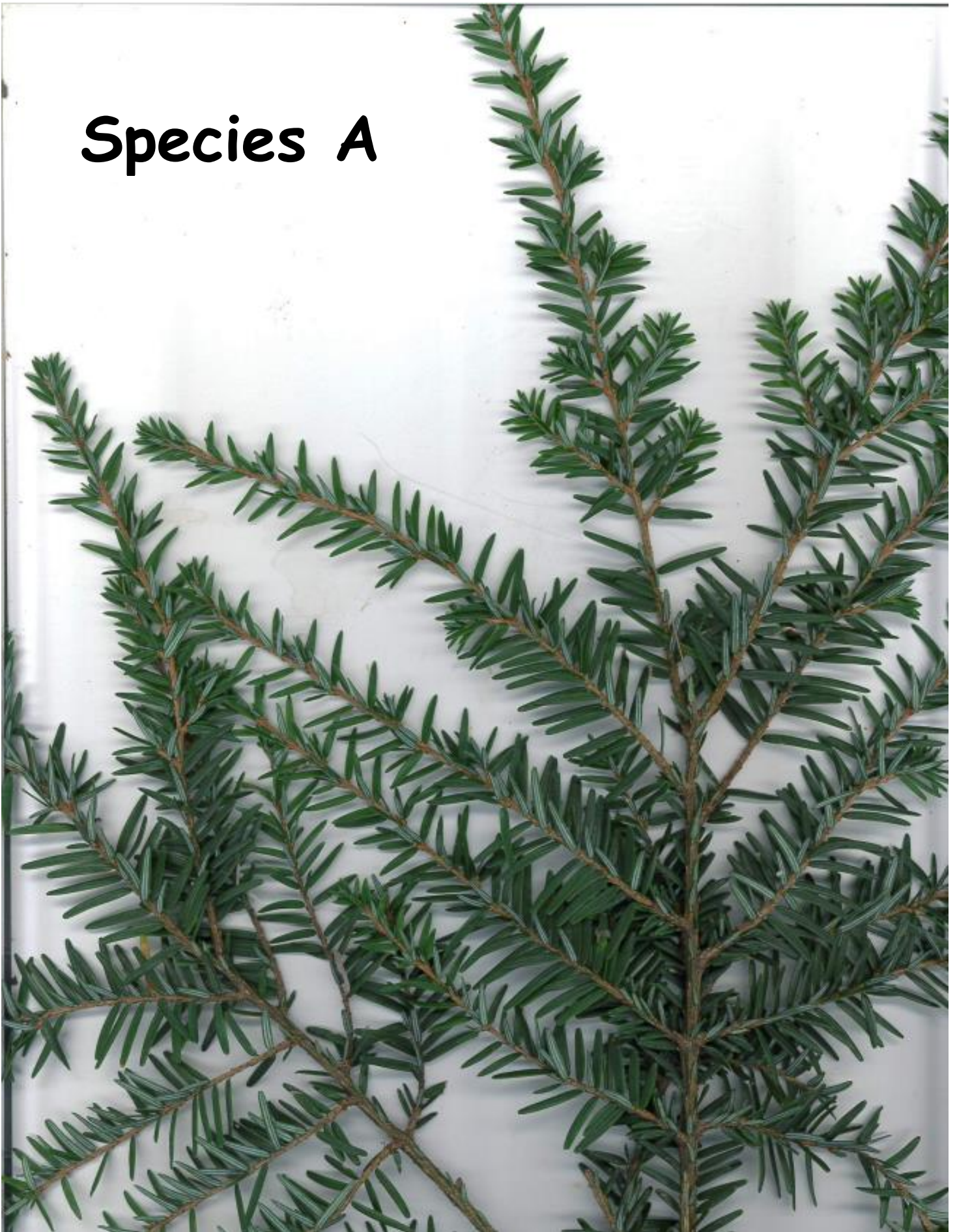
9A. The leaves are heart shaped with a smooth margin... Eastern Redbud

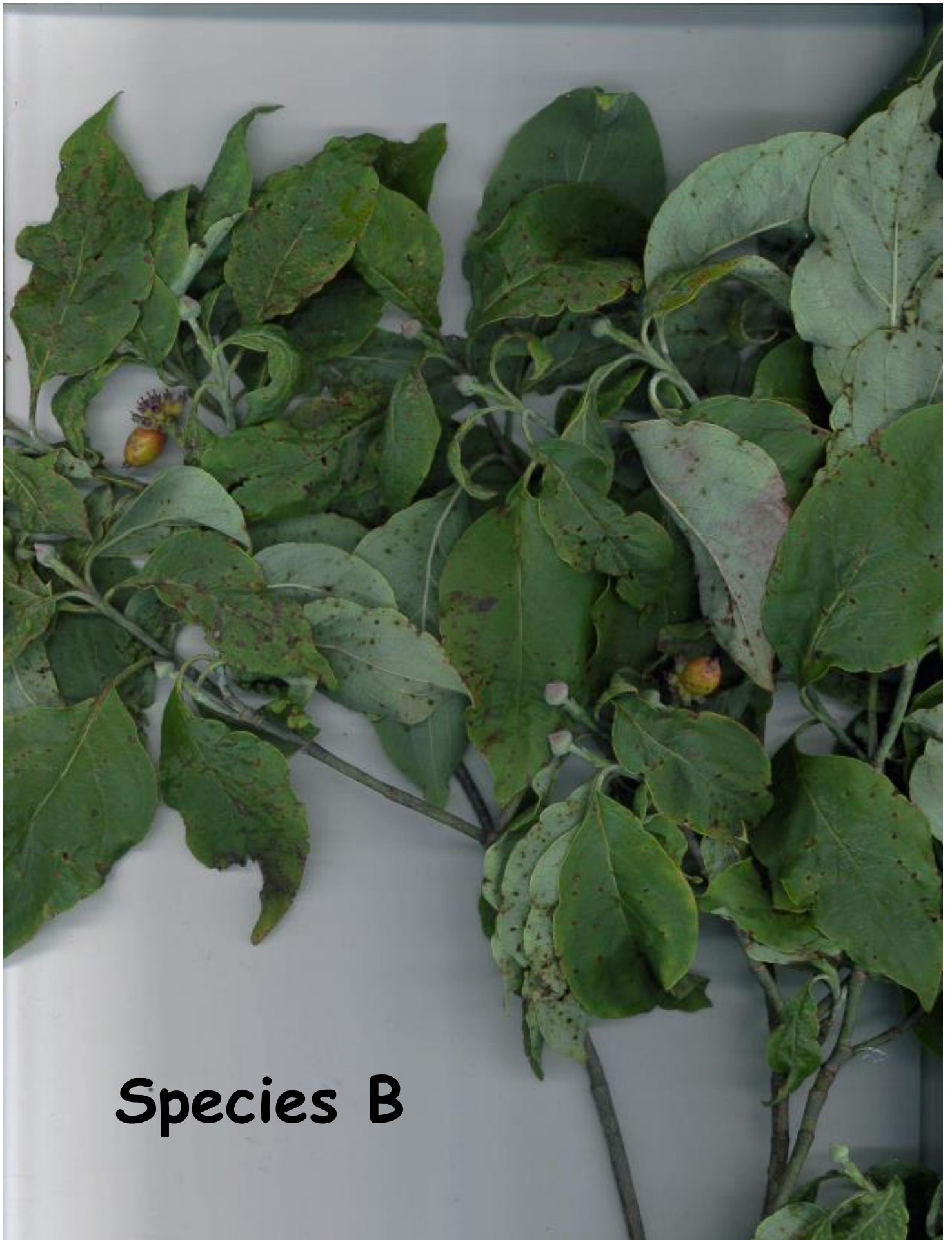
9B. The leaves have 3-5 lobes with coarse teeth and are 4-13 inches wide... Sycamore

Species A



Species A

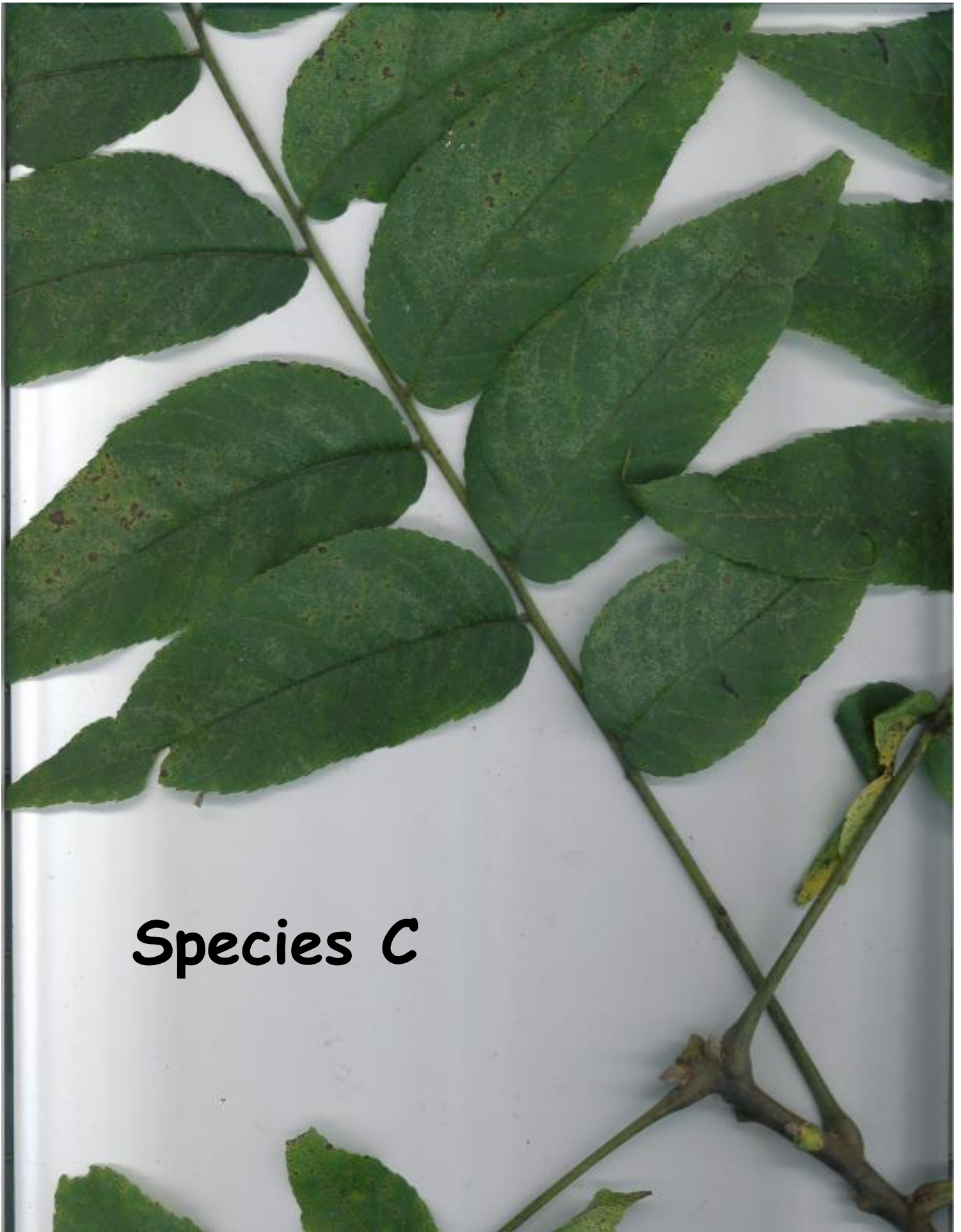




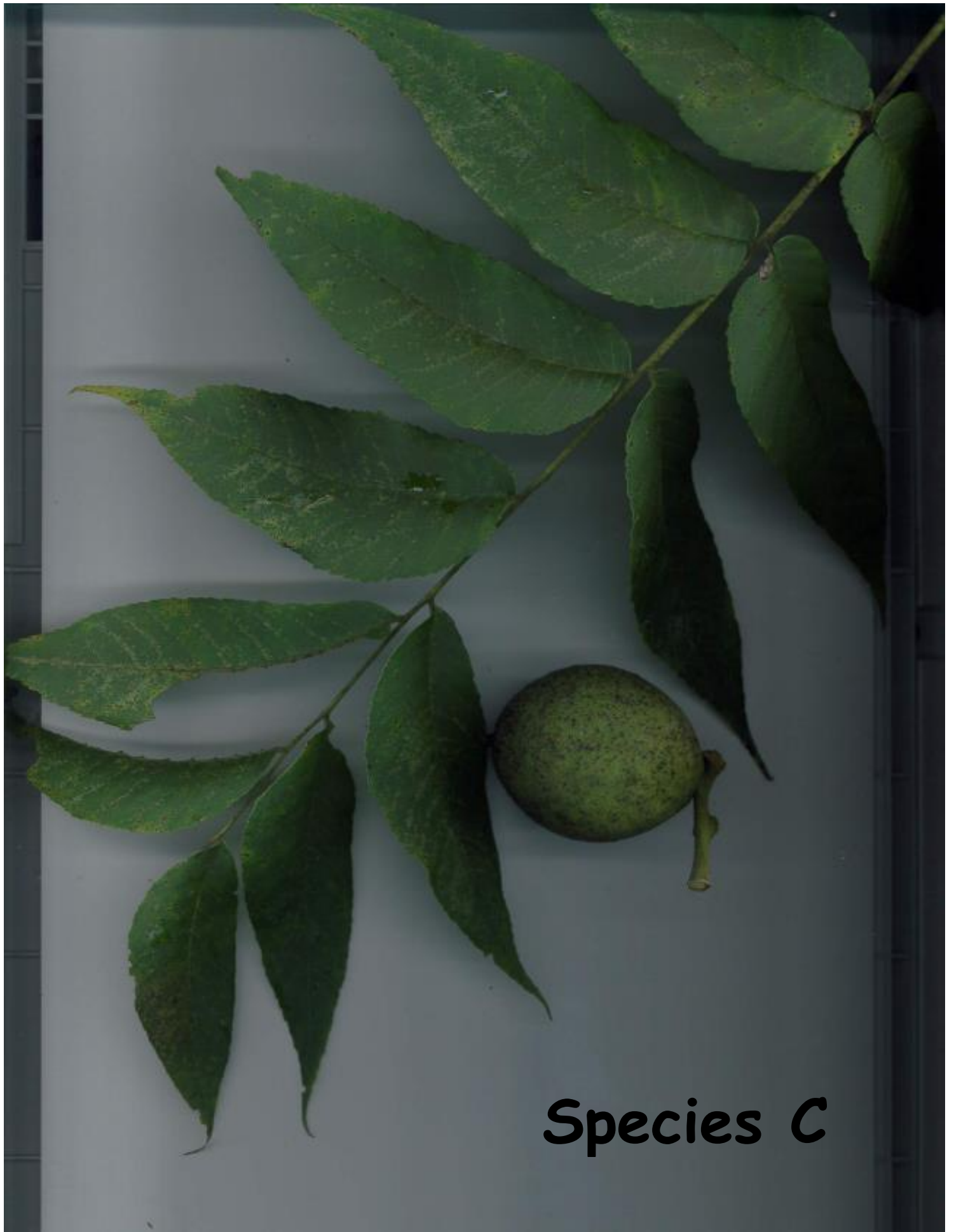
Species B



Species B



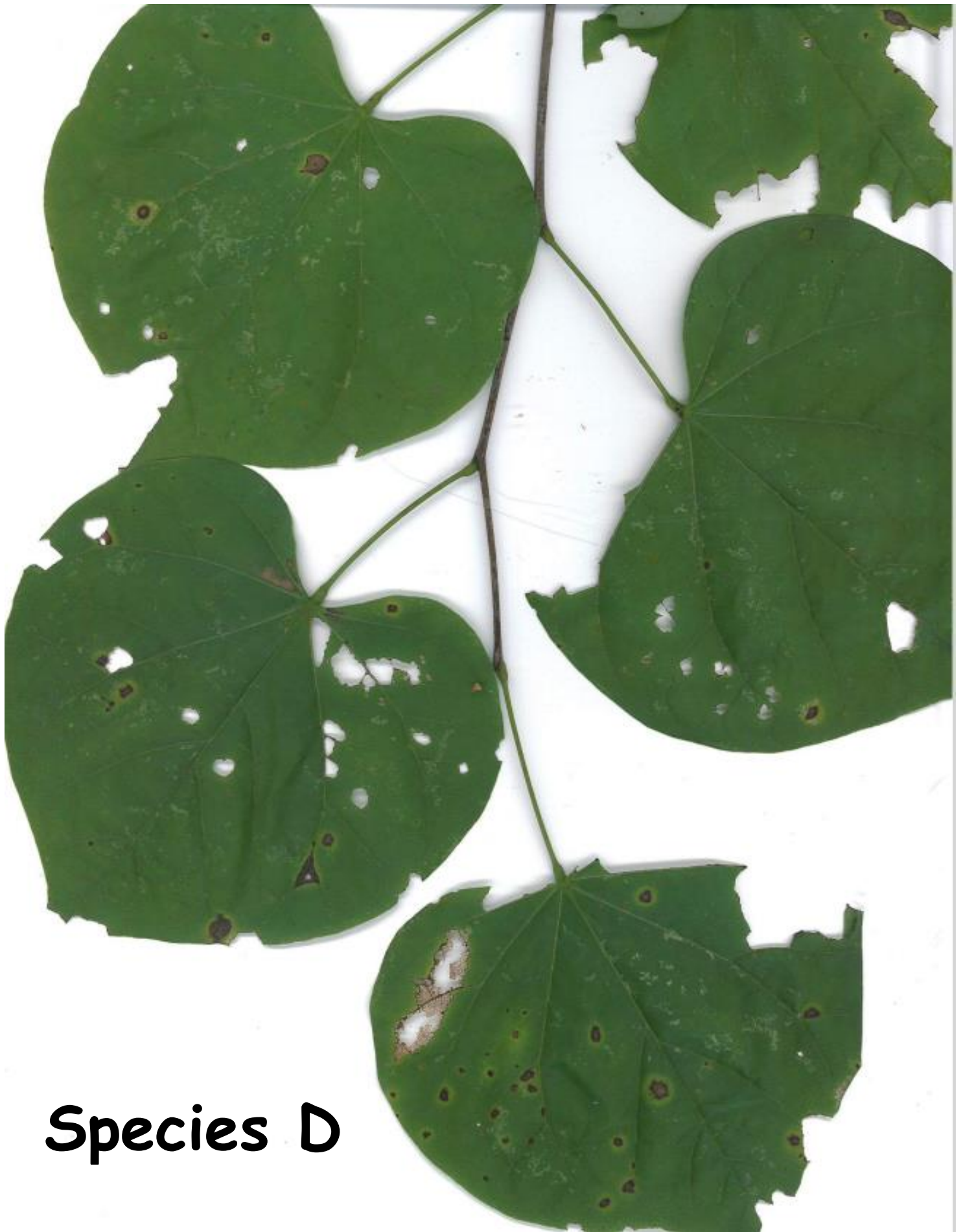
Species C



Species C



Species D



Species D

Species E



Species F



Species F





Species 6



Species G



Species H

Species H





Species I

Species I



Species J



Species J

