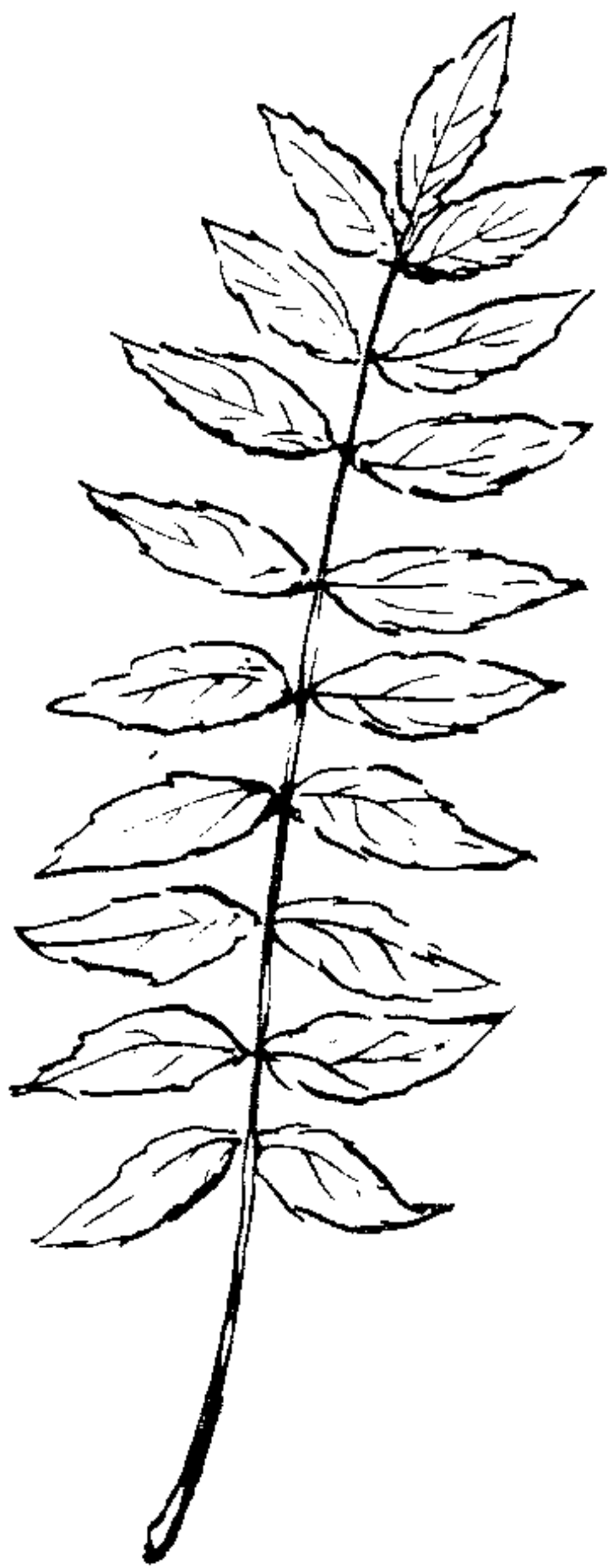


LOOK AGAIN !

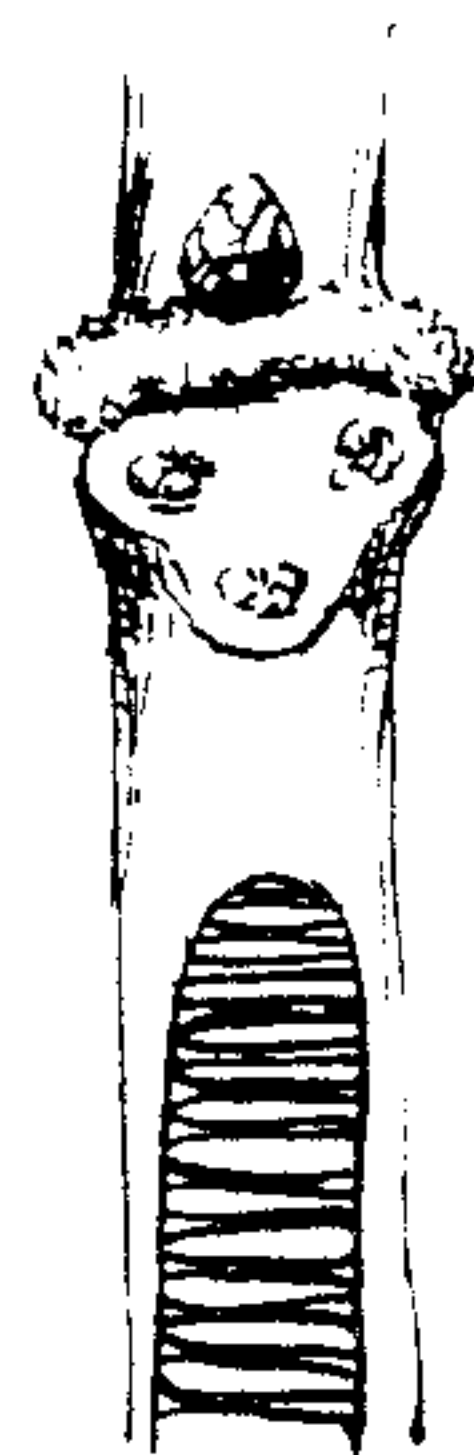
In nut-gathering season a squirrel roaming the southern forests can count its blessings in dozens of forms, but we humans--if we bother to partake of this bounty at all--are likely to confine our attention to the Walnuts.

In addition to the Black Walnut (Juglans nigra), which is renowned equally for its superb wood and pungent nut-meats, we are favored with the Butternut (J. cinerea), sometimes called White Walnut, a tree especially suited to acid soils.



Both are easily recognized by their pinnately-compound leaves with up to 23 toothed leaflets of nearly uniform size. In contrast, our Hickories (Carya spp.) seldom have more than nine leaflets, and often the basal ones are smaller and the terminal one the largest.

In the absence of leaves, the branchlets furnish diagnostic clues. The chambered pith (in Carya it is solid) is light brown in J. nigra and a dark chocolate color in J. cinerea. Moreover, the latter sports a "mustache"--a woolly ridge across the top of each three-lobed leaf scar.



The foliage of an unrelated tree, American Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana) might appear to be similar, but its leaflets are smaller, the pith solid, and the leaf scars narrow.



J. NIGRA



J. CINEREA

Still other differences occur in the fruits of the two Walnuts. Both the husk of J. nigra and the corrugated nut it encloses are almost spherical, while J. cinerea has a slightly pear-shaped husk and a nut which is more cylindrical and bears four distinct vertical ribs.

Dick Smith