

## A New Species of Honey Locust

SCOTT MCCOY, Arsenal Technical Schools, Indianapolis

While on a plant collecting trip October 9, 1937, I discovered a *Gleditsia*, unlike any I had ever seen before. The tree was about twenty feet tall, had a spread of about thirty-two feet and about fifteen inches breast high (DBH). The tree was standing alone in an old fence row. After returning home I wrote to the owner of the land asking him to protect the tree, but he had cut it before receiving my letter. Dr. Chas. C. Deam realized that the tree was different from any he had ever seen and sent a specimen to Dr. Ernest J. Palmer of Harvard University. He thought that my specimen was similar to Deam's specimen no. 56897 and wrote to Dr. Deam as follows:

"The *Gleditsia* fruit collected by Scott McCoy in Knox County, Indiana, certainly looks very distinct from that of *G. triacanthos* in the narrower pod, firm and untwisted, and in the smaller, relatively thicker, light brown seeds, without the gummy pulp of the Honey Locust. So far as the pubescence of the pod is concerned, I do not think it very significant; for while the mature pods of *G. triacanthos* are usually quite glabrous and even shiny, they are pubescent in most cases while young and until they become dry in the fall. On a good many specimens I find some fine pubescence still on the old pods where it has been protected from friction in wrinkles and depressions. I almost think someone would be justified in describing this as a new species if he had flowers and complete material for a description. The flowers of course might not show any distinctive character, but there is also a possibility that they would; and they should be examined at any rate. I am wondering whether there might not be both an armed and unarmed form of this, as there certainly is of the true *G. triacanthos*. Mr. McCoy's specimen is certainly the same thing as your no. 56897 from Gibson County."

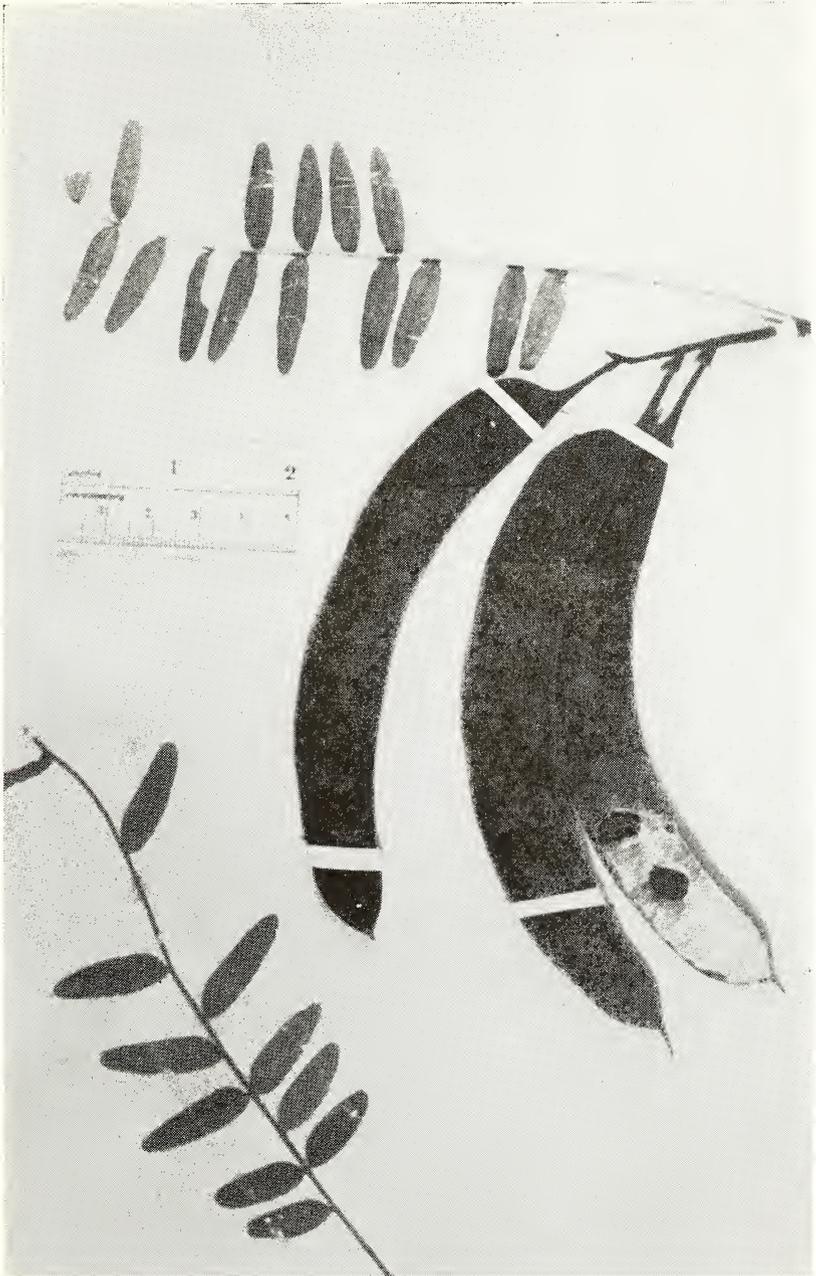
The Deam specimen no. 56897 was borrowed from Indiana University, along with other specimens collected in the general locality in Gibson County; Sargent's specimens of *G. texensis* were also borrowed from Harvard University. None of these was similar to the specimen I found in Knox County, Indiana. On a recent trip I searched the territory around the place where the original tree had been and found two small trees but neither had fruited as yet.

Believing that this collection is unique I feel justified in describing it as a species new to science: *Gleditsia hebecarpa* S. McCoy sp. nov.

Tree, about twenty feet tall and fifteen inches in diameter at breast height. Leaves and arming similar to *G. triacanthos* L. Flowers unknown. Legumes flat, linear, curved, about 2 cm. wide and 15 or 16 cm. long, finely and rather densely soft-pubescent, lacking internal pulp; seeds oval, plump, 819 mm. long.

Distribution: Known only from type locality.

Type: High sandy soil, Knox County, Indiana, Oct. 9, 1937, Scott McCoy 4723 (hb. DPU)



Type specimen *Gleditsia hebecarpa* McCoy.

Differens a *Gleditsia triacanthos* aeqqa, sine pulpa, densius pubescentia dua cm. latitudine quindecim—sedecim cm. longitudine, semines ovales, octo—novem mm. longitudine.