

# Typification of the genus *Zizyphoides* Seward et Conway (Magnoliophyta, Trochodendraceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** Type material of *Paliurus colombii* Heer, *Populus arctica* Heer, *Hakea arctica* Heer, and *Hedera macclurii* Heer from the Atanikerdluk locality (Paleocene, Greenland) was restudied based on the original collection, stored in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin. All these species were joined under the name *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway, type species of the genus *Zizyphoides* Seward et Conway. A lectotype of *Zizyphoides colombii* is designated and the diagnosis of this species is emended. An emended diagnosis of the genus *Zizyphoides* is also presented.

**KEYWORDS:** *Zizyphoides*, Trochodendroides, Atanikerdluk, Greenland, Trochodendraceae, Paleocene

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Zizyphoides* Seward et Conway was established for leaves similar in morphology and venation with leaves of modern genera *Zizyphus* and *Paliurus* (Seward and Conway, 1935) and assigned by its authors to family Rhamnaceae. The type species of this genus is *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway, based on *Paliurus colombii* Heer, which was described from the Paleocene of West Greenland (Heer, 1868). Seward and Conway referred only one incomplete specimen from the locality Kagdlunguak, West Greenland to the new combination *Zizyphoides colombii* (historical and modern geographic site names synonyms are given in Table 1 in chapter “Material and methods”). They did not designate a type for the new genus and did not publish a formal morphological diagnosis or description. But since the genus *Zizyphoides* included only one species at that time, the diagnosis of *Paliurus colombii* is also the diagnosis of the genus *Zizyphoides*.

The suggestion of Seward and Conway (1935) was not accepted by the majority of paleobotanists, who preferred to use the name of the modern genus *Zizyphus* for elongated fossil leaves with entire or crenate margin and actinodromous venation from the Upper Cretaceous and Paleogene (Hollick, 1936; Budantsev, 1968; Herman and Lebedev, 1991; Philippova and Abramova, 1993; Philippova, 2010). Some authors later transferred several species of fossil *Zizyphus* from the Upper Cretaceous of Russia to the genus *Zizyphoides* (Budatsev, 1983; Herman, 2011). However, all these combinations are invalid, because their basionyms were not indicated.

A revised concept of the genus *Zizyphoides* was proposed by Crane, Manchester and Dilcher (Crane et al., 1991; Manchester et al., 1991). Study of the reproductive structures belonging to the extinct genus *Nordenskiöldia* Heer (more correctly *Nordenskiöldia*, being named in recognition of the collector, Nordenskiöld), showed that these fruits are associated with

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certain type of leaves with actinodromous venation and entire or crenate margin. The morphology of these leaves matched that of the genus *Zizyphoides* therefore they were referred to this genus. Crane et al. (1991) considered all Paleocene leaves of *Zizyphoides* as conspecific. The earliest epithet for this species is *Zizyphoides flabella* (Newberry) Crane, Manchester et Dilcher, based on *Populus flabella* Newberry from the Paleocene to Eocene Puget Group of Chuckanut near Bellingham Bay, Washington, USA.

The latter concept has been widely accepted among paleobotanists. Later two additional species were described: *Z. auriculata* (Heer) Manchester, Crane et Dilcher from the Miocene of North America and Japan (Manchester et al., 1991; Tanai, 1961) and *Zizyphoides ezoensis* (Tanai) Manchester, Chen, Geng et Tao from the Eocene of China and Japan (Manchester et al., 2005).

However, the type species of the genus *Zizyphoides* (*Z. colombii*) remained beyond the scope of consideration. This material has not been revised since Heer's time. The concept of this species is based only on the drawings in Heer's monograph. It was not typified and the identity of *Z. colombii* and *Z. flabella* was not reevaluated based on their type specimens.

Besides that, *Z. flabella* was considered as conspecific with some of the specimens subsequently assigned to another species – *Populus arctica* Heer (Crane et al., 1991), which was also described by Heer (1868) from the Paleocene of West Greenland. However, the latter species was already proposed by Berry (1926) as basionym for the combination *Trochodendroides*

*arctica* (Heer) Berry. Many authors treated *T. arctica* as the most typical and widely distributed species of the genus *Trochodendroides* (Baikovskaya, 1956; Kryshstofovich and Baikovskaya, 1966; Budantsev, 1983; Herman, 2013). The leaves of *Zizyphoides* and *Trochodendroides* are very similar in their venation patterns. They often occur together and both genera are among the most common components of latest Cretaceous and early Tertiary floras. But leaves of *Trochodendroides* (sensu Crane, 1984) are usually associated with *Cercidiphyllum*-like fruits (Crane, 1984; Crane and Stockey, 1985, 1986), which now are treated as belonging to the genus *Jenkinsella* Reid and Chandler (Golovneva and Alekseev, 2017). However, the type material of *Populus arctica* was also never revised.

The aims of this paper are to restudy the type material of *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* in detail, to choose a lectotype for *Paliurus colombii* and to provide an emended diagnosis for the genus *Zizyphoides* and its type species *Z. colombii*.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Type material of *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* was studied in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. These specimens are derived from the Colomb collection which was transferred to the Museum from the Royal Dublin Society in about 1889.

The plant fossils were collected on the south coast of the Nuussuaq peninsula, West Greenland, during the Arctic Expedition of 1854 (Fig. 1). Lieutenant Philip Howard Colomb served as mate of HMS "Phoenix". This ship supplied the search for the Franklin

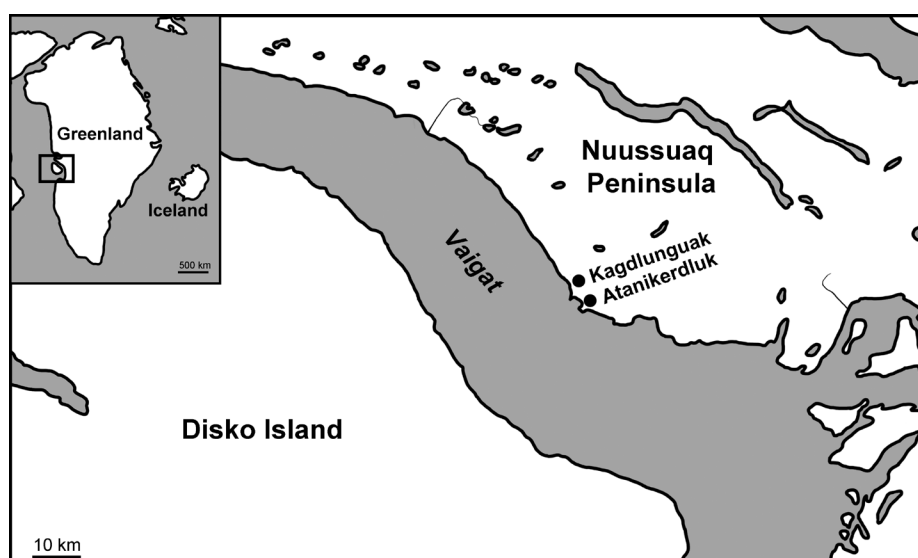


Fig. 1. Localities of *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway in West Greenland

expedition overseen by Sir Edward Belcher. Captain of the “Phoenix”, Sir Edward Augustus Inglefield, brought home the ship’s crew of HMS “Investigator”, which had become trapped in the ice.

Captain Inglefield and lieutenant Colomb visited the locality Atanikerdluk, Greenland on July 7, 1854. The plant fossil collection site is indicated in the drawing of Colomb, published by Heer (1868: p. 9). Leaves of *Paliurus colombii* with remains of other species were found on the slope of a cone-shaped mountain at an altitude of about 1,000 feet above the layer with fossil wood and below several thin coal seams. On return home, Inglefield transferred his part of the collection to the Geological Survey in London. Now these fossils are stored in the Natural History Museum, London. The specimens collected by Colomb were donated to the Royal Dublin Society on November 24, 1854.

The geology of the Atanikerdluk area was investigated by A.E. Nordenskiöld (1871). In this area Cretaceous and Tertiary deposits are exposed. The Tertiary sediments were assigned by Nordenskiöld to the Upper Atanikerdluk Formation. Later B.E. Koch (1959) divided plant-bearing deposits into the Quikavsak and the Naujat members. According to Koch, the Quikavsak member consists of fluvatile deposits of conglomerates, sandstones and shales. The Naujat member mostly consists of black shales with a few brown tuff bands near the bottom.

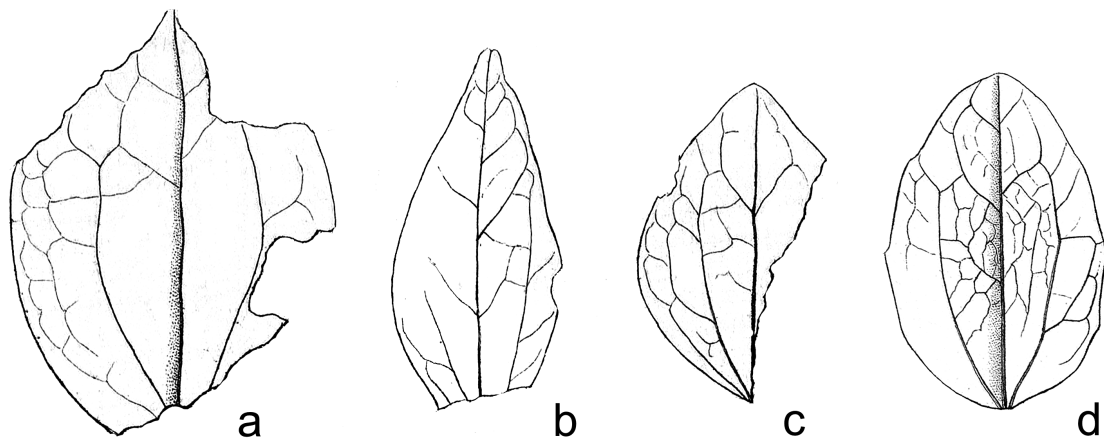
The plant fossils from the Colomb collection are leaf impressions preserved in sideritic shales. The sediments vary from fine-grained sandstone to siltstone. Such siderite-impregnated shales with numerous plant fossils are characteristic for the Quikavsak member (Koch, 1959), and we believe that type specimens of *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* came from these layers. Locality Kagdlunguak, from which Seward and Conway (1935) described one leaf of *Zizyphoides colombii*, should be assigned, according to Koch (1963), to the Naujat member.

Now the Quikavsak member of the Upper Atanikerdluk Formation is considered as a separate formation (Dam et al., 2009). The Quikavsak Formation is 70–180 m thick. Its age is determined as early Paleocene (Danian) based on the stratigraphic position between the Kangilia Formation, of Danian age, and the overlying Eqaalulik Formation of Danian to

Selandian age (Dam et al., 2009). The Naujat member is now part of the new Atanikerluk Formation (early to mid-Paleocene in age).

Plants from the Colomb collection were studied by Heer (1868), who described four specimens (Fig. 2a–d) under the name *Paliurus colombii*. All of them survived in the collection of the National Museum of Ireland (NMING). Three specimens are almost whole elliptic leaves. Among them one leaf is represented by part and counterpart (Pl. 1, figs 2, 3). The fourth specimen is a poorly preserved lower half of a widely elliptic leaf (Pl. 1, fig. 5). This leaf is slightly larger than the other *Paliurus colombii* syntypes and its margin is not preserved. It is more similar to leaves attributed to *Populus arctica* in its lamina shape. After examination of this material, we designate a specimen (NMING F19201/2), which most fully reflects the characters of this species, as lectotype of *Paliurus colombii*. This specimen was figured by Heer (1868) in Taf. V, Fig. 8 (Fig. 2e), and is refigured in this paper in Pl. 1, figs 4, 6, 7.

Description of *Populus arctica* is based on material from several samplings, obtained by different collectors (Ollrik, M’Clintock, Colomb, Lyall, Torell) in different years (Heer, 1868). We attribute only specimens from the Colomb collection to the type material of *Populus arctica*. Altogether 30 specimens were described under the name *Populus arctica* in the Colomb collection catalogue, compiled by Nigel Monaghan from NMING (Figs 3, 4). Among them 23 were figured by Heer (1868) and 7 remained unfigured. Specimens, figured in Taf. V, Fig. 1b and Fig. 14, are not leaves but probably bark and fruits (Fig. 3). Several specimens have bad preservation and do not show any characteristic features, or strongly differ from the other leaves in venation and margin details (Heer, 1868: Taf. V, Figs 10, 13 and three nonfigured leaves). After excluding questionable specimens, we considered only 24 leaves from type sampling to characterize *P. arctica* (list in the chapter “Material” in the systematic part). The best specimens are shown photographically and in drawings in this paper (Pl. 1, figs 8–11; Pl. 2; Pl. 3, figs 7–9; Fig. 5e–h, j). The lectotype of *P. arctica* was chosen by Iljinskaja (1972) based only on Heer’s illustration (Heer, 1868: Taf. V, Fig. 8; this paper, Fig. 5I). Unfortunately, this leaf is missing in the Colomb collection and its location and place of sampling are not known.



**Fig. 2.** Type material of *Paliurus colombii* Heer figured by Heer (1868): **a.** Taf. XIX, Fig. 4; **b.** Taf. XIX, Fig. 2; **c.** Taf. XIX, Fig. 3; **d.** Taf. XVII, Fig. 2d

**Table 1.** Locality and geographic site names' synonyms

Modern Greenlandic orthography (Dam et al., 2009)	Geographic names' synonyms in old literature
Atanikerluk	Atanekerdruk (Heer, 1868), Atanikerdluk (Seward and Conway, 1935; Koch, 1963)
Qallunguaq	Kardlunguak (Heer, 1868), Kagdlunguak (Seward and Conway, 1935)
Nuussuaq Peninsula	Noursoak (Heer, 1868) Nûgssuaq (Koch, 1963)
Vaigat Straitt	Waigatt (Heer, 1868)

In addition to *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica*, the Colomb collection contains several more specimens indistinguishable from leaves of these two species. These are leaves, described under the names *Hedera macclurii* Heer, *Hakea ? arctica* Heer and some of those called *Populus zaddachi* Heer. The first of these is represented by four specimens, and the second one is represented by two specimens. These two names are considered synonymous with *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica*. The species *Populus zaddachi* was first described from the Tertiary European floras (Heer, 1859). The Greenlandic material is generally different from the European, and Heer (1868) described quite different leaves under this name from Atanikerdluk. Formal systematic revision of this species is beyond the scope of this paper. Only one specimen (Heer, 1868: Taf. VI, Fig. 3) bears a resemblance to the leaves of *Paliurus colombii* (Pl. 3, figs 5, 6). All these specimens are also used to characterize the species *Zizyphoides colombii*.

Unfortunately, the infructescences of *Nordenskiöldia*, that usually co-occur with leaves of *Zizyphoides* in other localities, are not present in the National Museum of Ireland collection.

All material is preserved only as impressions. Leaf architectural terminology follows that of “Manual of Leaf Architecture” (Ellis et al., 2009). Photographs of the specimens were made using a Sony RX100II camera with low angle illumination.

The Geographic site names used in this paper are in modern Greenlandic orthography (after Dam et al., 2009). However, older spelling was used for locality names (Table 1), which were given by Seward and Conway (1935), as they are widely used in paleobotany.

## SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTIONS

### Family: TROCHODENDRACEAE

Genus: *Zizyphoides*  
Seward et Conway, emend.

Type species: *Zizyphoides colombii*  
(Heer) Seward et Conway

### Species composition:

1) *Z. flabella* (Newberry) Crane, Manchester et Dilcher, Paleocene, North America.

2) *Z. auriculata* (Heer) Manchester, Crane et Dilcher, Miocene, North America and Japan.

3) *Z. ezoensis* (Tanai) Manchester, Chen, Geng et Tao, Eocene, China and Japan.

**Diagnosis emended.** Leaves simple, with long petiole, narrowly to broadly elliptical, ovate, obovate, orbicular, deltoid or transversely elliptical. Apex obtuse, rounded or acute, frequently with attenuate obtuse tip with a slight retuse glandular incision. Base cuneate, rounded and slightly cordate. Margin often entire or undulate, but also crenate, scalloped, or irregularly dentate. Teeth irregular in size and shape, usually distantly spaced, broadly triangular with obtuse apices, or scalloped with rounded or obtuse, truncate apices; with apical glands or eglandular. Sinuses triangular, broadly triangular, or rounded. Eglandular crenations supplied by looping marginal veins and lacking a clearly defined single central vein. Glandular crenations with a distinct central vein running to the tip and a pair of lateral accessory veins that converge toward the base of the gland.

Venation actinodromous, with 3–5 pairs of thin primary veins. Midvein strait or undulating, running to the leaf apex, producing 2–5 alternately arranged secondary veins in the upper one-third of the lamina. Inner lateral veins thin, curving, running to the apex and connecting with lower secondary veins extending from the midrib. Secondary veins arising from the midvein and inner lateral primaries form brochidodromous loops in the upper part of the lamina. First strong secondary veins arising from the inner lateral primaries usually in the basal one-third to one-half of the leaf lamina. Outer lateral primary veins (if present) thinner than inner primaries and diverging at a wider angle from the midvein. Their basisopic branches form well-developed brochidodromous loops in the lower half of the lamina. Tertiary veins between the primaries and their main branches percurrent, forming irregular arched

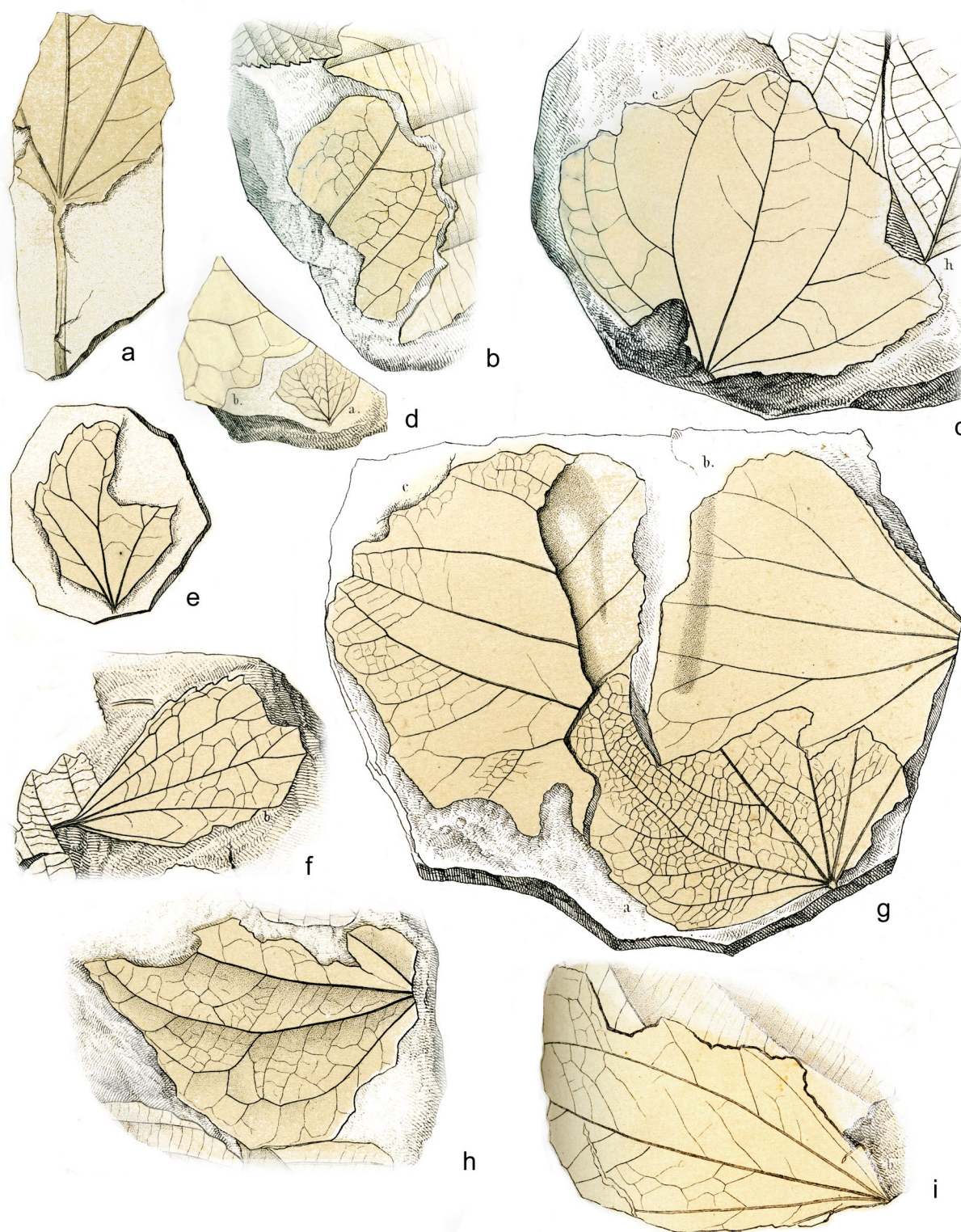




*Populus arctica.*

**Fig. 3.** Reproduction of the original illustration from Heer (1868, Taf. V) depicting leaves that he named *Populus arctica*





**Fig. 4.** Reproduction of the original illustration from Heer (1868) depicting leaves he named treated as *Populus arctica*. **a.** Orig. Taf. IV, Fig. 7; **b.** Orig. Taf. VIII, Fig. 6; **c.** Orig. Taf. XVII, Fig. 5c; **d.** Orig. Taf. IV, Fig. 6a; **e.** Orig. Taf. VI, Fig. 7; **f.** Orig. Taf. XVII, Fig. 5b; **g.** Orig. Taf. VI, Fig. 6; **h.** Orig. Taf. VIII, Fig. 5; **i.** Orig. Taf. XIX, Fig. 7b

connections. Looping secondary veins producing tertiaries that form additional abmedial loops toward the margin. Quaternary veins arising perpendicular to the lower order venation and typically forming an orthogonal network. Quinary veins also arising orthogonally

and delimiting polygonal, frequently rectangular areoles, with straight to curved freely ending veinlets. Veinlets with up to three orders of branching, sometimes rejoining veins of lower order resulting in still finer areoles apparently with no freely ending veinlets.

***Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer)**

Seward et Conway

Pls 1–3; Fig. 5

Selected Greenland synonymy (Heer, 1868, Colomb collection, and Seward and Conway, 1935).

1866 *Paliurus colombii* Heer, S. 279; Heer, 1868, S. 122, Taf. XVII, Fig. 2d, Taf. XIX, Figs 2–4;

1868 *Populus arctica* Heer, pro parte, S. 100; Taf. IV, Fig. 7; Taf. V, Figs 1a, 2–9, 11, 12; Taf. VIII, Figs 5, 6; Taf. XVII, Figs 5b, c.

1868 *Populus zaddachii* auct. non Heer (1859), Heer, pro parte, Taf. VI, Fig. 3.

1868 *Hedera macclurii* Heer, Taf. XVII, Figs 1a, 2c, 3, 4, 5.

1868 *Hakea? arctica* Heer, Taf. XV, Figs 5, 6.

1935 *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway, p. 23.

Lectotype (designated here). NMING, Dublin, F19201/2.

Type locality. Atanikerdluk, Greenland.

Type stratum. Quikavsak Formation.

Age. Early Paleocene.

Material. National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, Colomb collection: described under name *Paliurus colombii* Heer – F19172A/1; F19172B/1; F19177/4; F19201/2; F19253/2; described under name *Populus arctica* Heer – F19172B/2; F19195; F19196; F19197; F19198A/1; F19198A/2; F19198B/1; F19201/1; F19202; F19212/2; F19215/1; F19215/3; F19215/4; F19215/5; F19215/6; F19237/2; F19261/1; F19283/3; F19290/3; F19291/5; F19291/6; F19291/21; F19291/23; F19293/2; described under name *Hedera macclurii* – F19174; F19201/3; F19280/1; F19291/20; described under name *Populus zaddachii* Heer – F19263; described under name *Hakea? arctica* Heer – F19294A/3; F19294B/2; F19294C/2.

Diagnosis emended. Leaves narrowly to broadly elliptical, ovate, orbicular or transversely elliptical; base cuneate, rounded or slightly cordate; apex obtuse, rounded, or acute; margin entire, undulate, crenate or irregularly dentate. Teeth distantly spaced, 1–3 mm in length, broadly triangular with obtuse or rounded apices, usually eglandular, with distinct central vein.

Description. Leaves are simple, petiolate. Lamina is subcoriaceous, highly variable in

shape, narrowly to broadly elliptical, ovate, orbicular or transversally elliptical, 3–6.5 cm in length and 1.3–7 cm in width. Apex is obtuse, rounded or acute, commonly with attenuate obtuse tip. Base is cuneate, rounded and frequently slightly cordate. The smaller and narrower leaves are usually entire-margined. Larger leaves have wavy, crenate or irregularly dentate margin. Teeth are distantly spaced, 1–3 mm in length, broadly triangular with obtuse or rounded apices, usually eglandular, with distinct central vein. Wavy margin is supplied by looping marginal veins.

Venation is actinodromous, with midvein and 1–2 pairs of lateral primary veins. The midvein runs directly to the leaf apex. Inner lateral veins shorter and less pronounced than midvein, usually curving inward apically or join with a secondary vein originating from the midvein to form a marginal loop. Outer lateral primary veins (if present) are thinner than inner primaries and usually terminate at or near the margin in the lower third of the lamina. Lateral primaries produce secondary veins only abmedially. Secondaries from the upper part of the midvein and the outer secondary veins from the lateral primaries are branching to form angular brochidodromous loops of finer veins within the margin. Fine venation details are consistent with genus diagnosis.

## DISCUSSION

Leaves of *Paliurus colombii* are elliptical, with margin varying from entire (Pl. 1, fig. 2) to undulate (Pl. 1, fig. 1) or irregularly dentate (Pl. 1, figs 4, 6, 7). Venation is actinodromous, with 3–5 primary veins. *Populus arctica* is characterized by elliptic, broadly elliptic or transversally elliptic leaves with undulate, crenate or dentate margin and actinodromous 3–5 nervous venation.

R.W. Brown (1939) suggested that *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* are conspecific and merged them under the name *Cercidiphyllum arcticum* (Heer) R.W. Brown. Later Crane with coauthors (Crane et al., 1991) united these species under the name *Zizyphoides flabella*. Most other scientists have not considered the question of the identity of these species.

After restudying the type material in the Colomb collection we believe that leaves of *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* exhibit



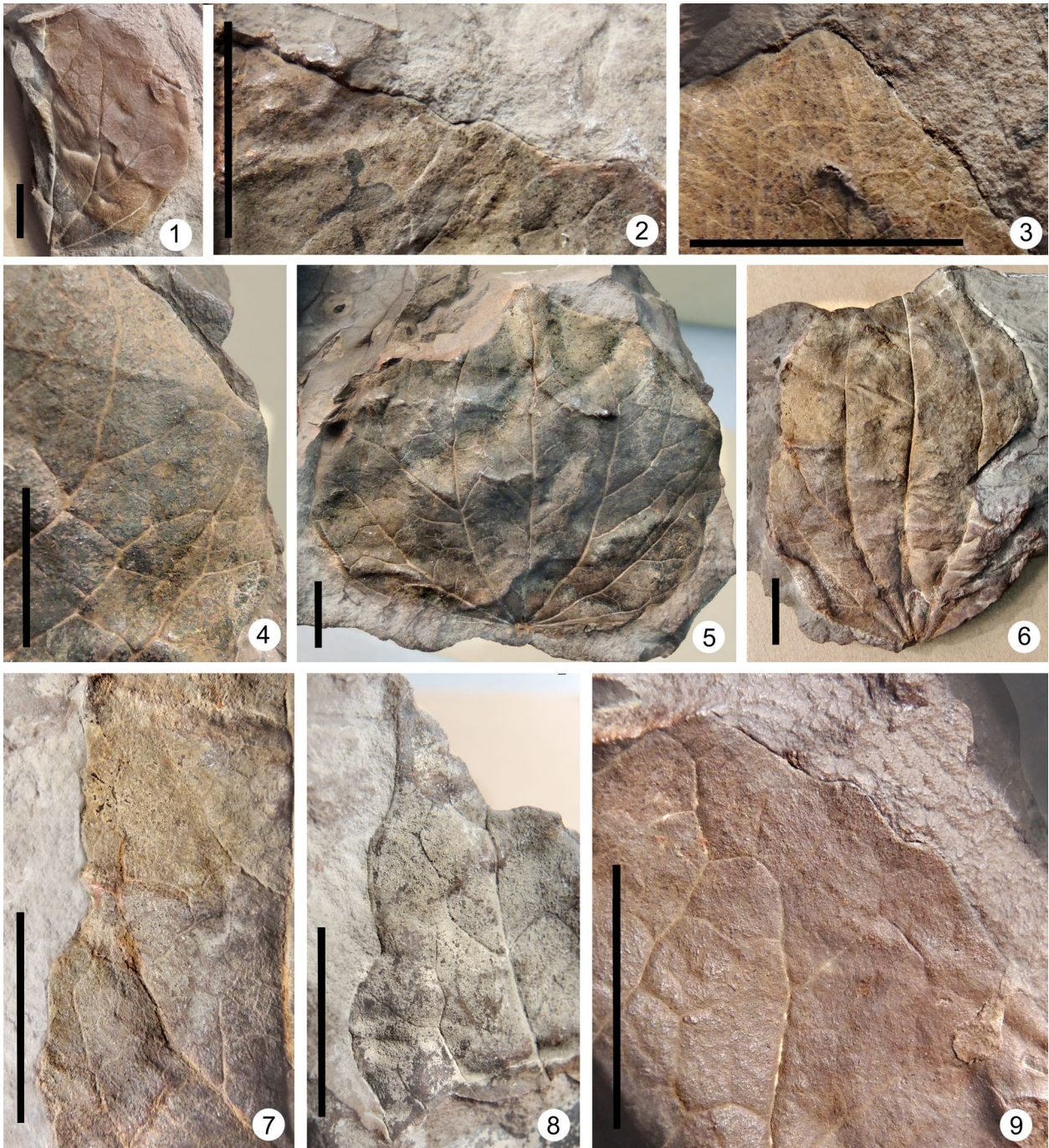


**Plate 1.** Leaves of *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway from the Quikavsak Formation, West Greenland (specimens in figs 1–5 were described by Heer (1868) as *Paliurus colombii* Heer and specimens in figs 5–11 were described as *Populus arctica* Heer): 1. F19177/4, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 2; 2. F19172A, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 3; 3. F19172B/1, counterpart of F19172A; 4, 6, 7. F19201/2, lectotype, designated here, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XVII, Fig. 2d: 4. general view; 6. Percurrent tertiary veins between midvein and inner lateral primaries, forming irregular arched connections, and loops near the margin; 7. Broadly triangular tooth with obtuse eglandular apex; 5. F19253/2, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 4; 8. F19172B/2, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 12; 9. F19198/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 2a; 10. F19195, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 5; 11. F19215/4, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V Fig. 7b. Scale bar is 1 cm

a continuous range of variability and belong to one leaf population (Pls 1–3; Fig. 5). They have the same venation and margin features and differ slightly in the size and shape of lamina. Leaves of *Paliurus colombii* are smaller

and narrower (length from 3 to 5.2 cm; width from 1.3 to 4.6 cm), than those of *Populus arctica* (length from 3.5 to 6.5 cm; width from 2.5 to 7 cm). Smaller and narrower leaves of *Paliurus colombii* were located most likely in



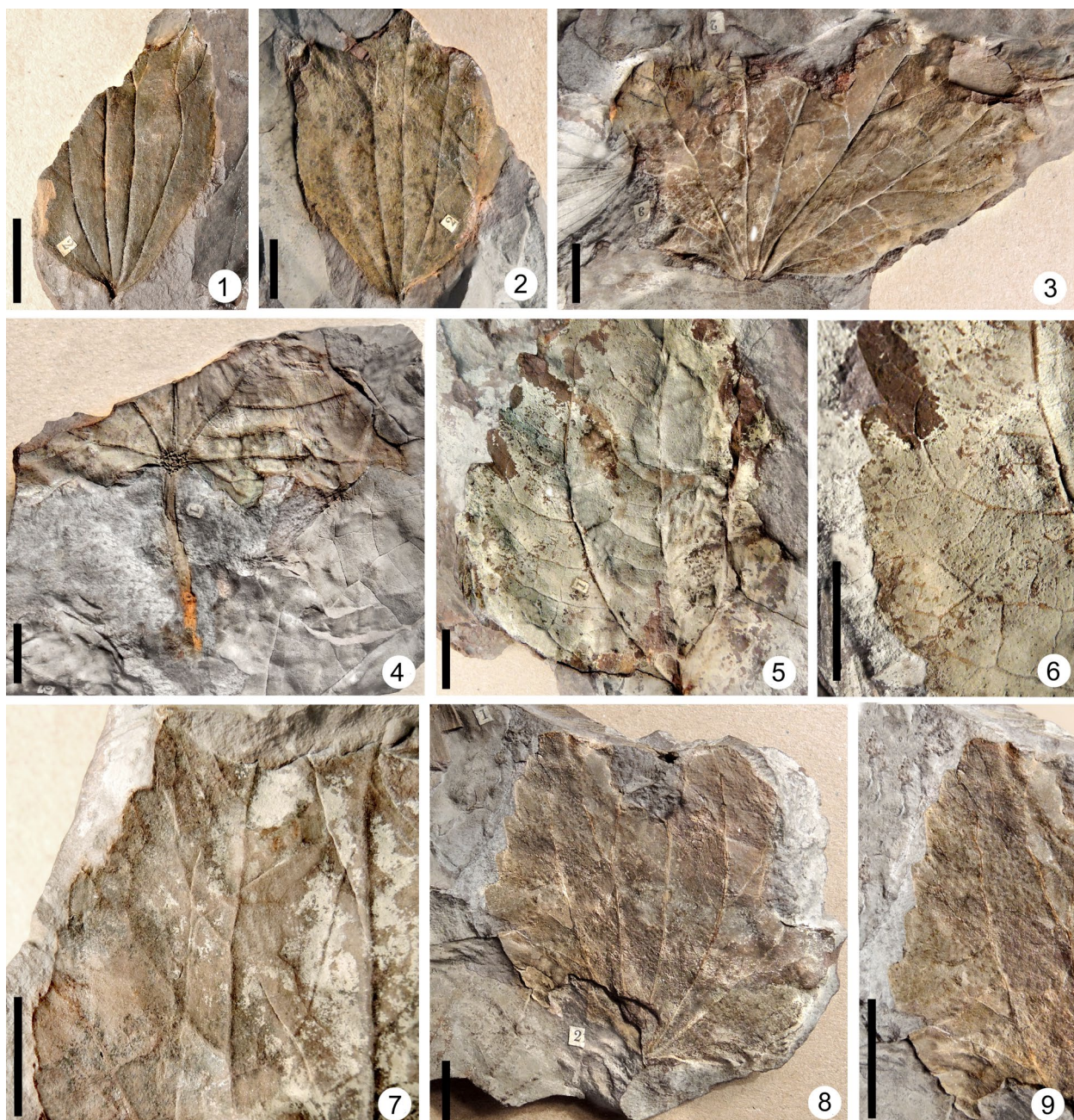


**Plate 2.** Leaves of *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway from the Quikavsak Formation, West Greenland described by Heer (1868) under the name *Populus arctica* Heer: **1, 9.** F19214/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 1a: **1.** General view; **9.** Irregularly dentate margin with broadly triangular teeth; **2.** F19200; **3.** F19214/10, quaternary venation near the margin; **4, 5.** F19261/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 3: **4.** Irregularly dentate margin with broadly triangular teeth and brochidodromous loops near the margin; **5.** General view; **6.** F19202, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 11; **7.** F19172B/2, loops near the margin and irregular teeth; **8.** F19201172B/2, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 12, crenate and triangular broad teeth with triangular and rounded broad sinuses, lower tooth is glandular. Scale bar is 1 cm

the upper parts of the shoots, while the larger and wider leaves of *Populus arctica* are normally developed leaves in the middle of the shoots. Such variability is observed in most modern woody dicotyledons. We consider that species *Paliurus colombii* and *Populus arctica* are conspecific and merge them under the name *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway.

Leaves of *Hedera macclurii* are indistinguishable from those of *Populus arctica* in shape, margin structure and variability (Pl. 3, fig. 3, 4). Leaves of *Hakea? arctica* are elliptic, entire-margined (Pl. 3, figs 1, 2) and very similar with leaves of *Paliurus colombii* in size, margin structure and venation. The leaf described as *Populus zaddachi* (Heer, 1868:





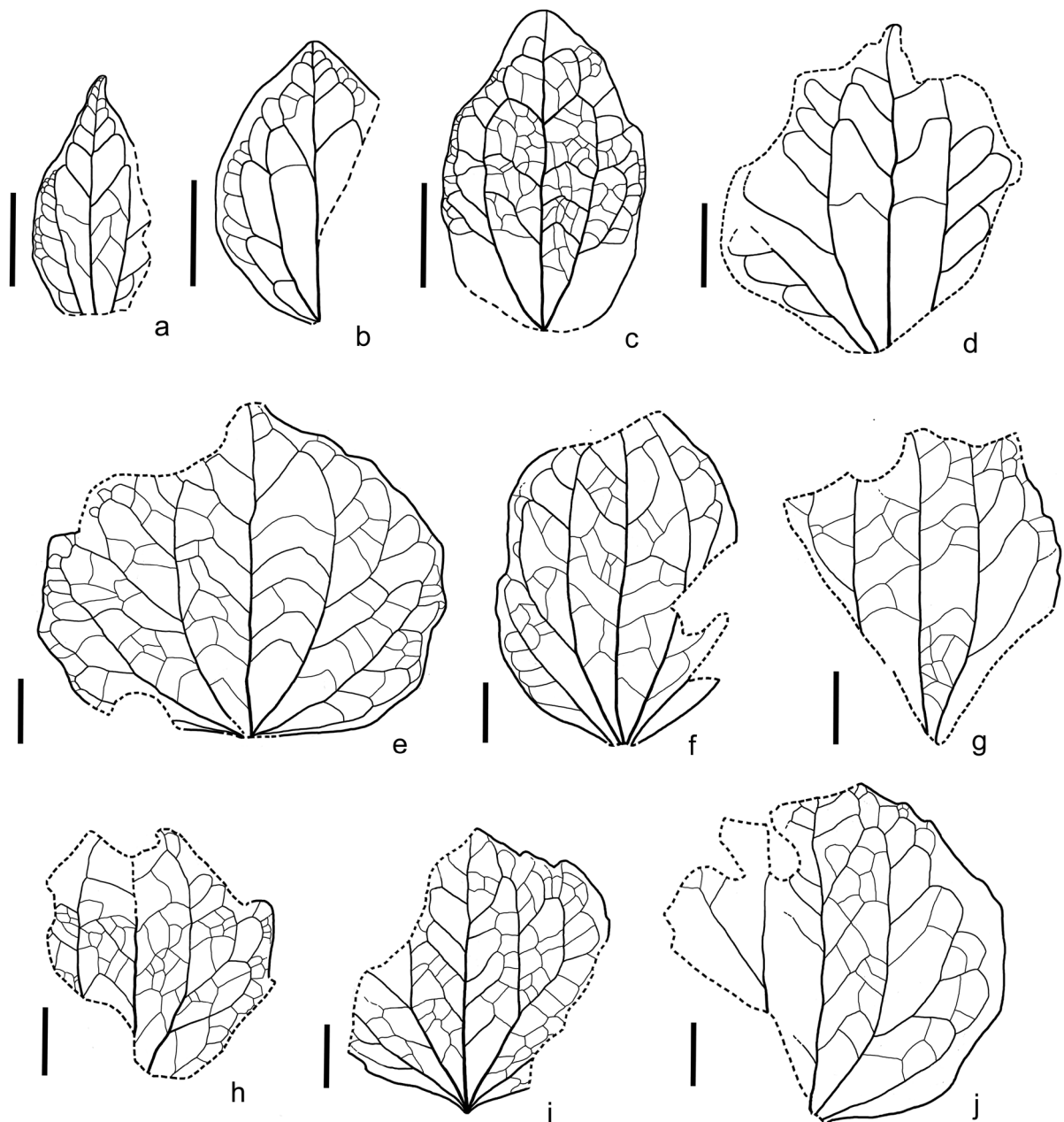
**Plate 3.** Leaves of *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway from the Quikavsak Formation, West Greenland (specimens of Fig. 1, 2 were described by Heer (1868) as *Hakea? arctica* Heer, specimens of Fig. 3, 4 were described as *Hedera macclurii* Heer, specimen 5 was attributed as *Populus zaddachii* Heer, and specimens 7–9 were described as *Populus arctica* Heer): 1. F19294B/2; 2. F19294C/2; 3. F19201/3; 4. F19174; 5, 6. F19263, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. VI, Fig. 3; 6. crenate teeth with central vein; 7. F19198B, irregularly crenate margin; 8. F19237/2 [1]; 9. F19237/2 [1], irregularly crenate margin. Scale bar is 1 cm

Taf. VI, Fig. 3) is rather large (about 7 cm long), widely elliptic, with small irregular teeth, typical for *Zizyphoides colombii* (Pl. 3, figs 5, 6).

The question of the identity of *Zizyphoides colombii* and *Z. flabella* is not easy. These species differ only slightly in the shape of leaves and in the margin structure. The species *Zizyphoides flabella* (basionym *Populus flabella* Newberry) was described based on one widely elliptical leaf with slightly undulate margin from the Paleocene-Eocene Puget

Group, Washington (Newberry, 1863; 1898). Other specimens from the type locality are unknown and although *Jenkinsella* fruits occur there, we are not aware of co-occurring *Nordensioeldia* fruits. Occurrences of *Z. flabella* in other Paleocene localities of North America are abundant at various sites in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota associated with *Nordensioeldia* (Crane et al., 1991; Manchester, 2014) and they are also represented mainly by morphotypes with an entire, slightly





**Fig. 5.** Drawings of *Zizyphoides colombii* (Heer) Seward et Conway from the Quikavsak Formation, West Greenland (specimens A–D were described by Heer (1868) as *Paliurus colombii* Heer and specimen E – as *Populus arctica* H: **a.** F19177/4, figured Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 2; **b.** F19172A, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 3; **c.** F19201/2, lectotype of *Zizyphoides colombii*, designated here, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XVII, Fig. 2d; **d.** F19253/2, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. XIX, Fig. 4; **e.** F19661/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 3; **f.** F19202, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 11; **g.** F19198/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 2a; **h.** F19195, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 5; **i.** drawing of *Populus arctica* lectotype, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 8, storage location is unknown; **j.** F19215/1, figured by Heer, 1868, Taf. V, Fig. 1a. Scale bar is 1 cm

undulate, crenate or scalloped margin (Wolfe, 1966; Hickey, 1977).

Morphotypes with an entire or wavy margin are also characteristic of *Zizyphoides colombii* leaves from Greenland. However, typical leaves have a finely toothed margin with crenate or dentate teeth, each with distinct central vein. Such morphotypes have not yet been detected for the North American representatives of *Z. flabella*, although individual teeth may have a similar structure. On the other

hand, obovate morphotypes with a scalloped or crenate margin, common for *Z. flabella*, were not found in *Zizyphoides colombii*. Whether it is possible to consider the finely toothed margin and differences in shape as diagnostic features for distinguishing between the two species or or they are the result of intraspecific variability, is not completely clear. To resolve this issue, it is necessary to analyze more extensive samples from both leaf populations and especially from type locality of *Z. flabella*.

Miocene *Zizyphoides auriculata* leaves differ from Paleocene *Z. flabellum* and *Z. colombii* in having generally more prominent dentations along the margin and a broader divergence of the lateral primary veins (Manchester et al., 1991).

As mentioned above, *Populus arctica* was proposed as basionym for three other combinations: *Cercidiphyllum arcticum* (Heer) R.W. Brown (1939), *Trochodendroides arctica* (Heer) Berry (1926) and *Cocculus arctica* (Heer) Iljinskaja (1972). Two first authors, Brown and Berry, used their combinations mostly for *Cercidiphyllum*-like leaves, although among figured specimens there are also leaves, similar in morphology to the leaves of *Zizyphoides*. Brown noted co-occurrence of *Cercidiphyllum arcticum* leaves with follicular fruits, resembling those of extant *Cercidiphyllum*. However, these infructescences differ from the infructescences of *Cercidiphyllum* by their racemose organization and some other characters. Therefore, many paleobotanists preferred to use the formal generic name *Trochodendroides* for *Cercidiphyllum*-like leaves for different morphotypes from the Late Cretaceous and Paleogene (Bell, 1949; Kryshtofovich and Baikovskaya, 1966; Krassilov, 1976; Budantsev, 1983; Budantsev and Mokhov, 1986; Golovneva, 1994).

Wolfe (1966) was the first to recognize *Zizyphoides*-like leaves as a separate entity among the diversity of trochodendrophylls. He attributed them to the modern genus *Cocculus* and combined all the previously described fossils of similar morphology under the name *Cocculus flabella* (Newberry) Wolfe, including *Populus arctica*. The combination *Cocculus arctica* was created by Iljinskaja (1972). Following Wolfe (1966), Iljinskaja attributed to the genus *Cocculus* only leaves with entire, wavy or irregularly toothed margin. However, she included several fossil species in this genus and considered *Cocculus arctica* and *C. flabella* to be different species.

## CONCLUSIONS

After restudying the type material in the Colomb collection we found that leaves described by Heer (1868) under the names *Paliurus colombii*, *Populus arctica*, *Hakea? arctica*, and *Hedera macclurii* exhibit a continuous

range of variability and belong to one population. These species are conspecific and were united under the name *Zizyphoides colombii*.

This species is the type species of the genus *Zizyphoides* Seward et Conway. We have designated a lectotype of *Zizyphoides colombii* and provided an emended diagnosis of this species and of the genus *Zizyphoides*.

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