



Blurry due to swarming mosquitos

ID #: 201

Owner: USFW—Little River National Wildlife Refuge

Circumference: 34 inches

Height: 48 feet

Average Crown Spread: 17.5 feet

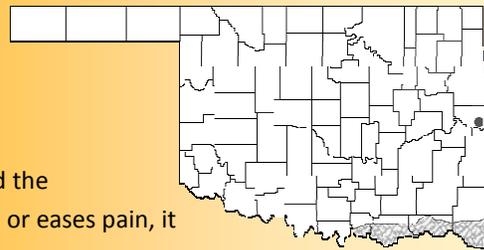
Total Points: 86.4

GPS Coordinates: 33.943217, -94.722933

— Its not too far off of the road, just bring bug spray! —



HERCULES' CLUB (*ZANTHOXYLUM CLAVA-HERCULIS*)



The name Hercules-club and its Latin equivalent refer to the spiny branches. Called the toothache-tree because chewing bark or foliage causes a numbing sensation that masks or eases pain, it was utilized by the Native Americans and early settlers.

Spiny small to medium—sized tree 40 feet high, with trunk 5 inches in diameter, bearing stout conical spines, with rounded open crown, and with aromatic foliage. **Twigs** stout, brown, hairy when young, with short stout detachable spines less than 3/8 inch long, often paired at nodes. **Buds** small, rounded, blunt, dark brown, scaly, hairless.

Leaves pinnately compound, 5—10 inches long. Leaflets mostly 7—17, paired except at end, often with small paired spines at base, nearly stalkless, narrowly ovate, 1.5—3 inches long, long—pointed, blunt and unequal—sided at base, edges wavy, hairless, with tiny gland—dots (visible with lens against light), shiny green above, paler and sometimes hairy beneath, remaining attached into winter.

Flowers many in large bunch—branched clusters (cymes) at ends of young leafy twigs in spring, mostly male and female on different plants, small, 3/16 inch across the 5 spreading yellow petals.

Fruits many, 3 or fewer from a flower, podlike (follicles), elliptical, 1/4 inch long, brown, splitting open, maturing in early summer. Seed 1, shiny black, hanging outside.

Bark light gray, smooth, thin, with stout conical spines and corky warts, bitter and aromatic.

Wood light brown with yellow sapwood, lightweight, soft, fine—textured.