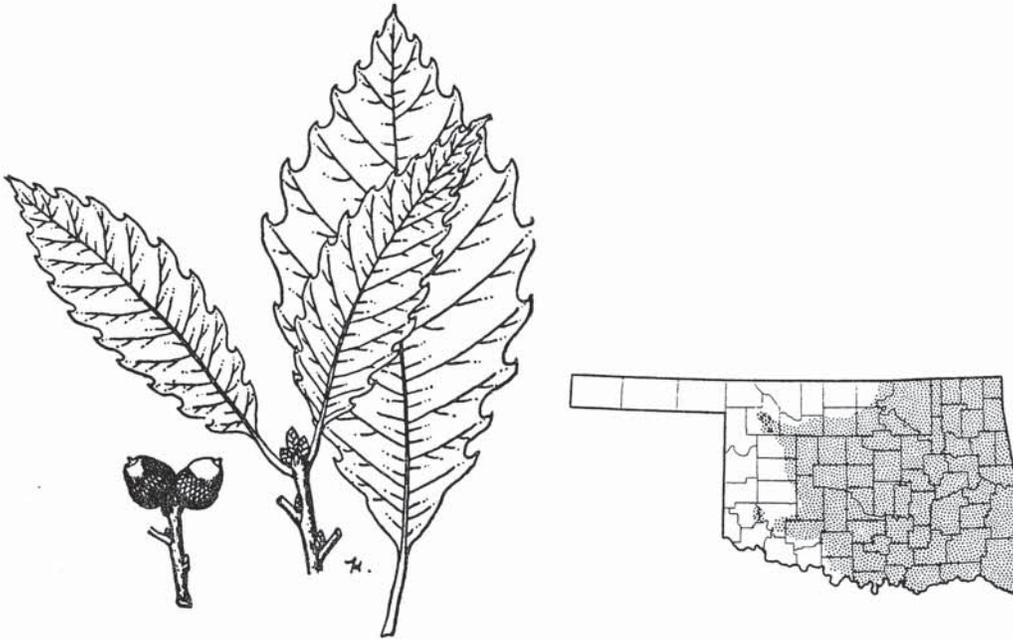


50. CHINKAPIN OAK

Quercus muehlenbergii Engelm.

Large tree 60 ft (18 m) high and 1 ft (0.3 m) in diameter, with narrow rounded crown. Twigs slender, gray hairless, ending in cluster of pointed light brown hairless buds.



Leaves *narrowly elliptical* to reverse ovate, 4-6 in (10-15 cm) long, 1½-3 in (4-7.5 cm) wide, slightly thickened, long- or short-pointed, with many straight parallel side veins each ending in curved tooth on *wavy edges*, above *shiny green* and hairless, *beneath whitish green* and covered with tiny hairs, turning brown or red in autumn.

Acorns 1-2, stalkless or short-stalked, egg-shaped, ½-1 in (13-25 mm) long, ⅓ or more enclosed by deep thin cup composed of many gray brown finely hairy overlapping scales, maturing first year.

Bark light gray, thin, fissured and scaly.

Wood dark brown with thin whitish sapwood, ring porous, very uneven-textured, heavy (sp. gr. .63), hard. Marketed as white oak lumber.

Scattered to common in oak-hickory forests, especially on limestone outcrops, and in flood plain forests, Okla. except w. one-fourth and panhandle. Scattered to common in e. half of U.S. except n. border and coastal plains. Zone 5.

Named for Henry Ernst Muhlenberg (1753-1815), minister and botanist of Pennsylvania. An attractive shade tree. A related low shrub of c. Okla. is: 166, dwarf chinkapin oak, *Quercus prinoides* Willd., page 190.