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A DISJUNCT COMMUNITY OF CHESTNUT OAK IN MISSISSIPPI

EDWARD G. ROBERTS

Coker and Totten (1944) and Harrar and Harrar (1946) report the range of chestnut oak (rock oak, rock chestnut oak), *Quercus prinus* L. as being south to Georgia and Alabama. The range map of Munns (1938) shows it in the northeastern tip of Mississippi — Tishomingo County. Mattoon and Beal (1936) report "It is found in the extreme northeastern counties, where it is common on the sandstone bluffs." Lowe (1913) writes of the vegetation of the North-Central Plateau of Mississippi that the typical upland for-

ests of the more sandy eastern parts of the region contain, among other things, *Quercus prinus*. This geographic description would include the western part of Calhoun County. But then Lowe goes on to report chestnut oak as being present in the bottoms of the same region and in the hills and bottoms of the deep loessal soils region to the west. There is unquestionably some confusion between *Quercus prinus* and *Quercus michauxii*. In a later bulletin, Lowe (1921) reports that chestnut oak is found in the northern part of the Pontotoc Ridge and, elsewhere in the bulletin, in the high hills about the headwaters of the Hatchie River. These seem to be two descriptions for essentially the same area. Further on in the bulletin he gives the range of chestnut oak as Tishomingo County and the high, rocky divides of Itawamba, Alcorn, and Tippah Counties. Itawamba is immediately to the south of Tishomingo. Alcorn and Tippah are immediately to the west and are at the headwaters of the Hatchie.

Recently, Newton Hanson of Bruce, Mississippi, forester for the E. L. Bruce Company, took the writer to see some chestnut oak in northwestern Calhoun County, Mississippi. One tree by the side of the road is over 16 inches d.b.h. It is in every respect a typical chestnut oak. Several others are within a few hundred feet of it. Mr. Hanson says that they are scattered over perhaps a thousand acres on a ridge which runs roughly north and south. Superficially, at any rate, there seems to be nothing to distinguish this ridge from countless others in north Mississippi. The area where the trees were seen is about three-quarters of a mile east of the Yalobusha County line and about three and one quarter miles south of the Lafayette County line in Section 22, Township 11 South, Range 3 West from the Chickasaw Base Line and Chickasaw Meridian or at Latitude $34^{\circ} 7' N$, Longitude $89^{\circ} 30' W$. This location is some eighty miles southwest of the range shown by Munns and perhaps sixty miles south and west of the locations reported by Lowe (1921).

The day may not be far distant when man converts this oak-hickory ridge to loblolly pine with the elimination of this disjunct chestnut oak community. — FORESTRY SCHOOL, MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.

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The Editors



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