

WITCHES' BROOMS OF THE CHICAGO AREA

CARL F. GRONEMANN

310 N. Liberty St., Elgin.

My interest in those curious plant deformations called galls led to a study of witches' brooms. The purpose of this paper is merely to list those which have come under my observation in the Chicago area, principally in the vicinity of Elgin, with the hope that it may interest others and lead to further study of them.

The origin of the witches' brooms described here is unknown to me excepting that of the hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis* L.) which is caused by the mite (*Eriophyes* sp.). This was the first to attract my attention, and I found it to be very abundant, as shown in Fig. 1. They vary in size, reaching a maximum of about 12 inches in diameter. The tree shown in the illustration is growing near the Desplaines River at River Grove, and it was found April 23, 1922.

Fig. 2 shows a broom on the willow (*Salix longefolia* Muhl.). This was found in large numbers in a swamp near Spaulding, Illinois, March 17, 1929. The average diameter was about 12 inches.

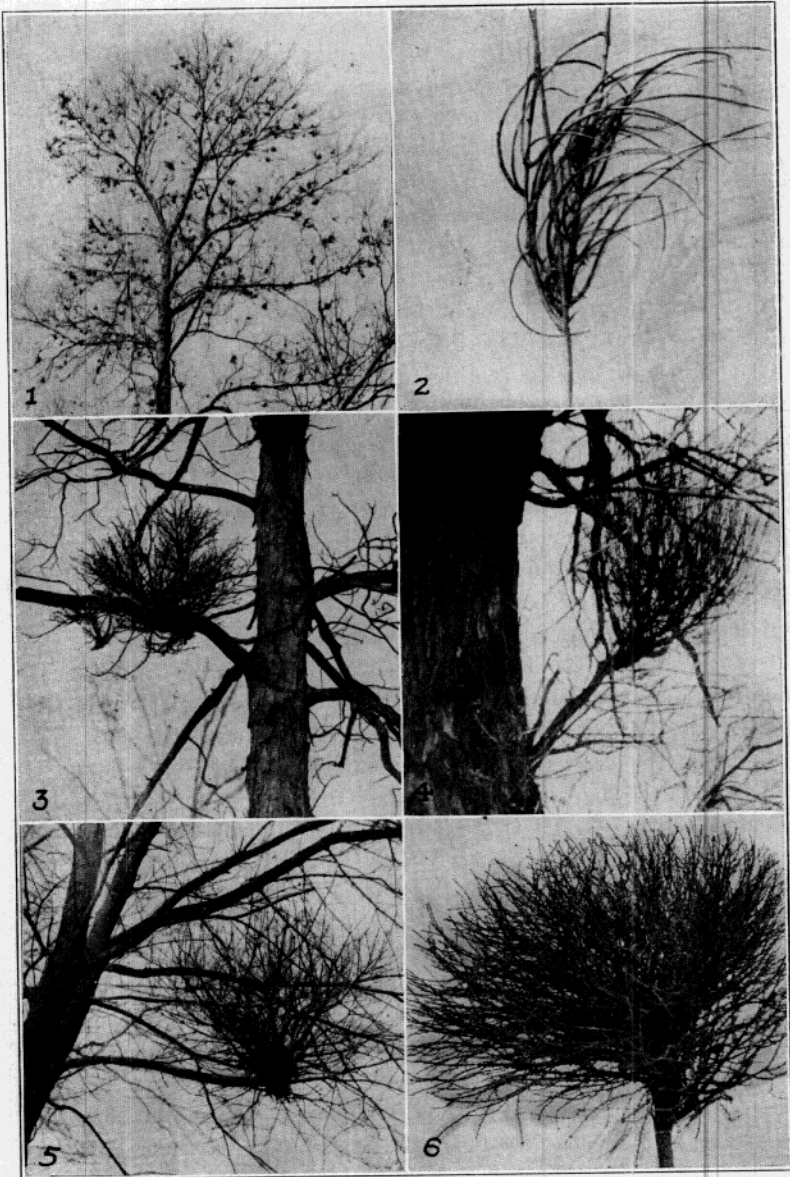
I have found witches' brooms on hickories (*Carya alba* Nutt.) in three different localities. The illustration in Fig. 3 represents one of three brooms found on the same tree near South Elgin, Illinois, in 1924. Two others were found in Lord's Park (Elgin) and several more about five miles west of Elgin. Their average diameter was about 3 feet.

Fig. 4 shows a broom on the willow (*Salix nigra* Marsh.) found near Elmwood Cemetery, River Grove, Illinois, May 5, 1923. Its diameter was about 4 feet. My first specimen was found near Dundee, Illinois, April 23, 1923, and its diameter was about 3 feet.

The broom on box elder (*Acer negundo* L.) illustrated in Fig. 5 was found at Itasca, Illinois, Dec. 2, 1923. Diameter 5 feet. A smaller broom was found in Elgin in 1928.

I have found but a single broom on the larch, and this on *Larix decidua* Mill., which is represented in Fig. 6. This broom was found near Udina, Illinois, on State Route No. 5, in 1922.

I have been informed that brooms have been seen on the pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) at the "Dunes" in Indiana.



Witches' Brooms.