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AN ANOMALOUS HICKORY-NUT.

GUY WEST WILSON.

During the fall of 1914 the writer observed in the vicinity of Iowa City a tree of the common shag-bark hickory (*Carya ovata* (Mill.) K. Koch.) which produced a number of abnormal nuts. As none of these were found with the husk intact no data can be given except for the nuts themselves. Bicarpillary fruits were not uncommon on this tree as at least a dozen examples were found without making a careful search. In most instances the paired nuts separated readily and showed no tendency toward adhesion. They were, however, very much flattened on the appressed surfaces. A cross section of these nuts showed them to be normal except in shape. Both lobes of the embryo were well developed, but somewhat distorted by the pressure. The walls of the shell were of about the same thickness on the free sides as were those of normal unicarpillary nuts from the same tree, while the inner appressed walls were very thin.

Among these paired nuts one example was found of what appeared to be a complete union of the two nuts into one with a resultant form suggestive of a fasciation. Upon attempting to cross-section this specimen, however, the two parts separated, leaving evidence of but a partial adhesion of the two nuts which had been borne in this bicarpillary husk. A cross section showed that the embryo of each of these nuts was developed in the same manner as were those of the other paired nuts. The most noteworthy points were the exceedingly thin walls of the nuts on the sides adjacent to each other and the manner in which the pressure of each upon the other had deformed the embryos. Both of these pushed out on the same side of the fruit with the same resultant form as that which appeared in the paired nuts.