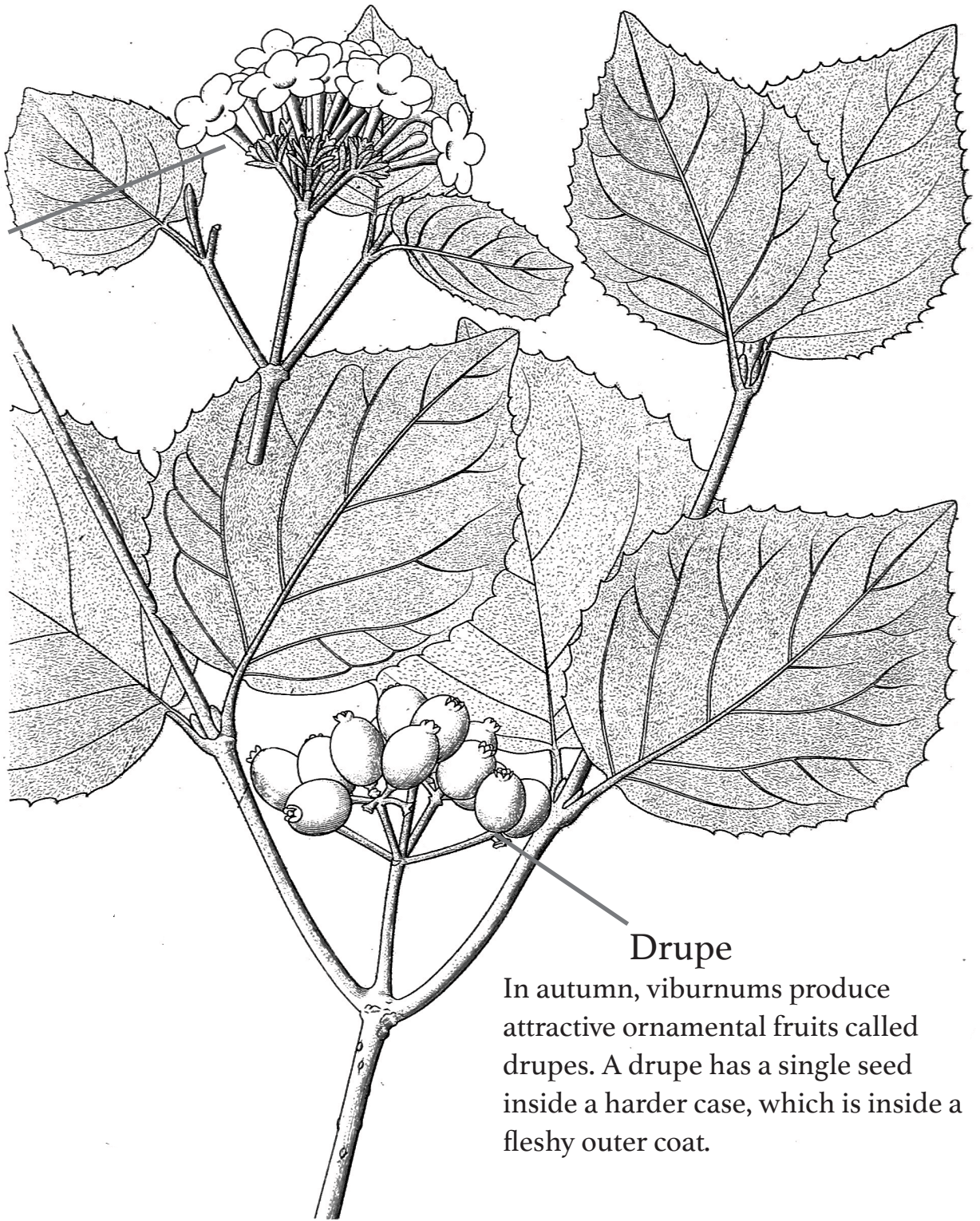


Viburnum sp.

Corymb

In spring, viburnum flowers attract many butterflies. Flower forms may be flat or dome-shaped clusters, or flat umbels interspersed with larger flowers. This arrangement is called a corymb.



Drupe

In autumn, viburnums produce attractive ornamental fruits called drupes. A drupe has a single seed inside a harder case, which is inside a fleshy outer coat.

“A garden without a viburnum is akin to life without music and art.”

~Michael Dirr

Viburnums are handsome shrubs in the elderberry family (Adoxaceae) that are admired for their multiple season interest with attractive form and foliage. Members of the Adoxaceae family, viburnum are one of the relatively few kinds of trees and shrubs to feature opposite branching. In the spring, many species produce white or pink-tinged flowers that are showy and sometimes fragrant. In the summer, the leaves come in a variety of shapes - opposite, simple, toothed, or lobed - and range from glossy green to a dull, dark green. Leaves may be thin and smooth or thick and leathery. Cool temperate species are deciduous, while most of the warm temperate species are evergreen. Some species are densely hairy on the shoots and leaves, with star-shaped hairs.

In the autumn, some species display ranges of stunning foliage color. Fall coloration is an attractive feature of some viburnums ranging from a glossy red to scarlet or purple. At this time of year, look for viburnums bearing ornamental fruits in colors of blue, black, deep purple, glossy red, scarlet or yellow. These drupes appear on almost all species, and provide food for birds such as cardinals, flickers, cedar waxwings, and catbirds as well as other wildlife.

What's inside a drupe?

Can you find a bird eating drupes?

