

Diversity of Fossil Leaves

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Significance of the Leaves

The fossil leaves found in The Petrified Forest Piedra Chamana were preserved by falling volcanic ash prior to the burial of the forest by a volcanic debris flow. The impressions of 20 to 25 types of leaves have been excavated from the ashfall layer, which preserved details of their shapes, sizes, and veins. Identification and analysis of fossil leaves provide a more complete reconstruction of the Eocene forest than what the woods alone portray.

Monocots & Dicots

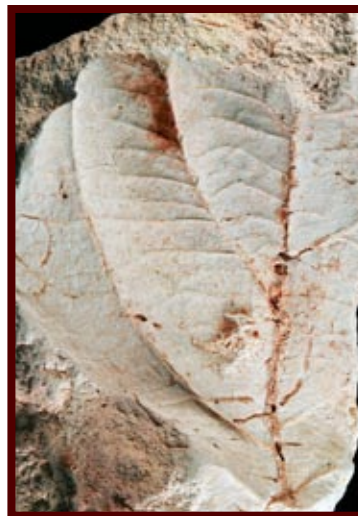
Monocots and dicots can be differentiated by preserved characters of the fossil leaves. In monocots, major veins run parallel to the length of the leaf. Dicot venation typically appears as a network. Many more dicot leaf specimens have been found than monocots.



Fossil leaves were excavated from the ashfall layer.



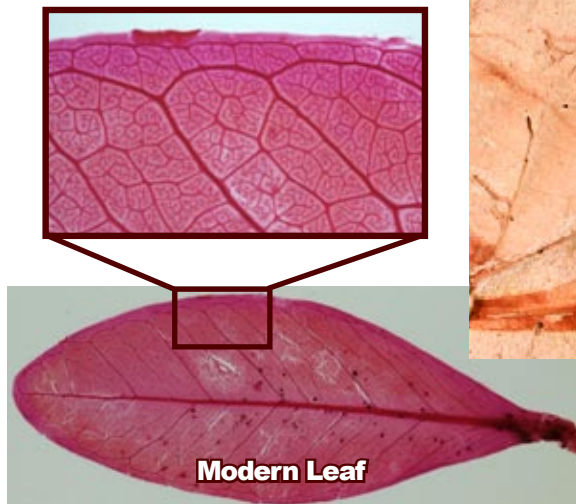
MONOCOT



DICOTS

Fossil Leaf Identification

Fossil leaves are identified by comparing their sizes, shapes and veins to modern leaves. Note the similarities between the modern and fossil leaves shown here.



The fossil leaves and wood were used to reconstruct the ancient environment and climate of Sexi.