

A Guide to Finding PONDBERRY

(Lindera melissifolia)



USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station

Science Update
SRS-003

Center for Bottomland
Hardwoods Research
Stoneville, MS



Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) is a rarely seen woody plant that grows in seasonally flooded wetlands and on the edges of sinks and ponds in six southern states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed it as an endangered species in 1986. Much of the land where pondberry previously occurred has been converted to agricultural fields. The drainage and flooding of wetlands and timber cutting have also affected pondberry populations.

Pondberry plants grow up to two meters in height. Each plant consists of many stems that are connected underground. Pondberry's small yellow flowers bloom in spring before most other plants leaf out, and the plant produces red berries in the fall. Male and female flowers are on separate plants.

As part of a conservation program, it is essential to find all of the existing pondberry populations so that we may follow the growth or decline of the species. This pamphlet is designed to help both amateurs and professionals correctly identify pondberry throughout the year. If you find a new population of pondberry, please contact us at the numbers on the back panel of this brochure. We will add your information to the database we developed to track pondberry populations in the South.

In early spring (starting in February), look for green stems with clusters of small yellow flowers.

Rosettes of flowers on a stem.



(above) Male pondberry flowers.

(below) Female pondberry flowers.



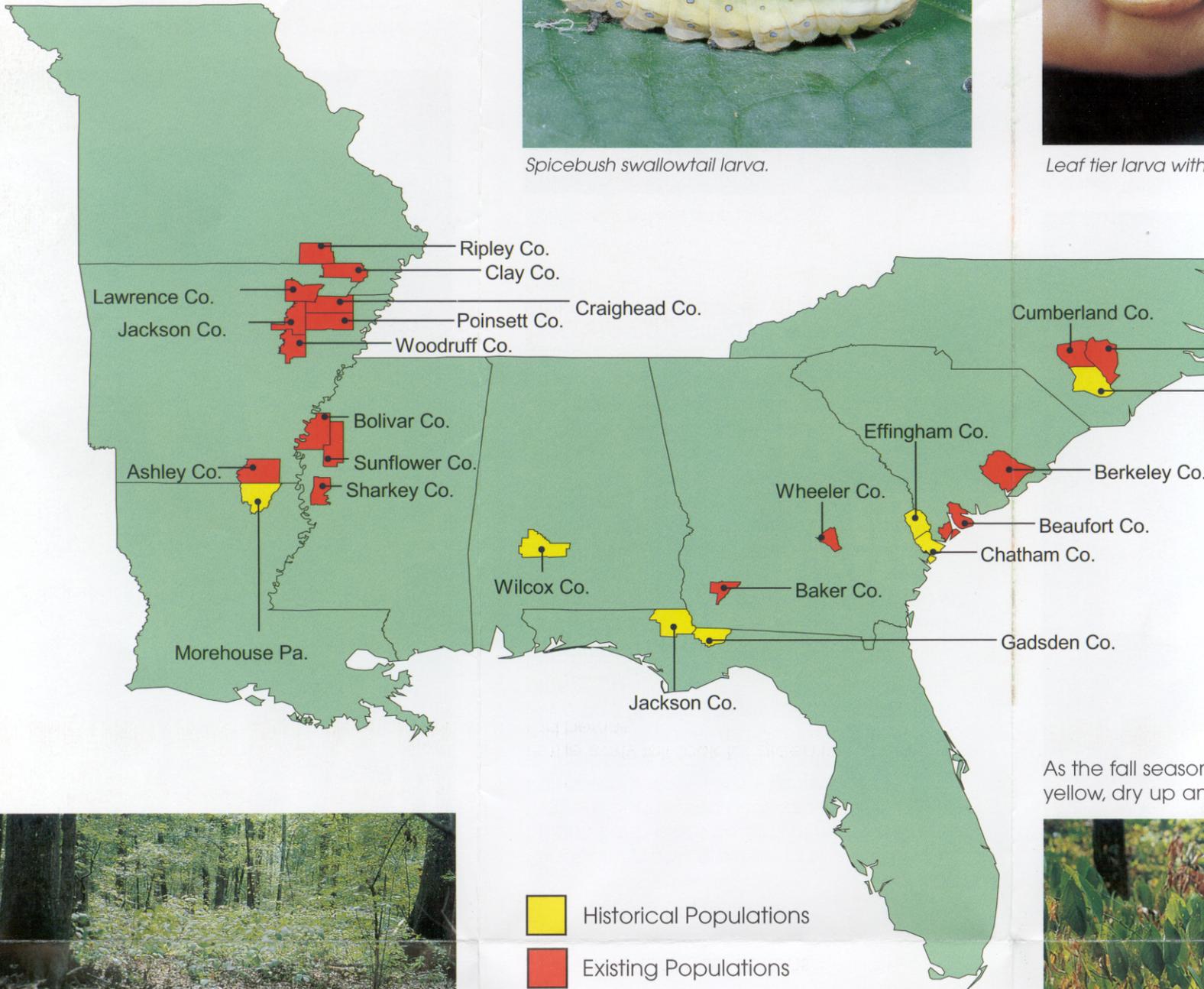
At least six insect species are known to feed on pondberry. When you find pondberry please report any insects or their damage.



Spicebush swallowtail larva.



Leaf tier larva with



As the fall season yellow, dry up an



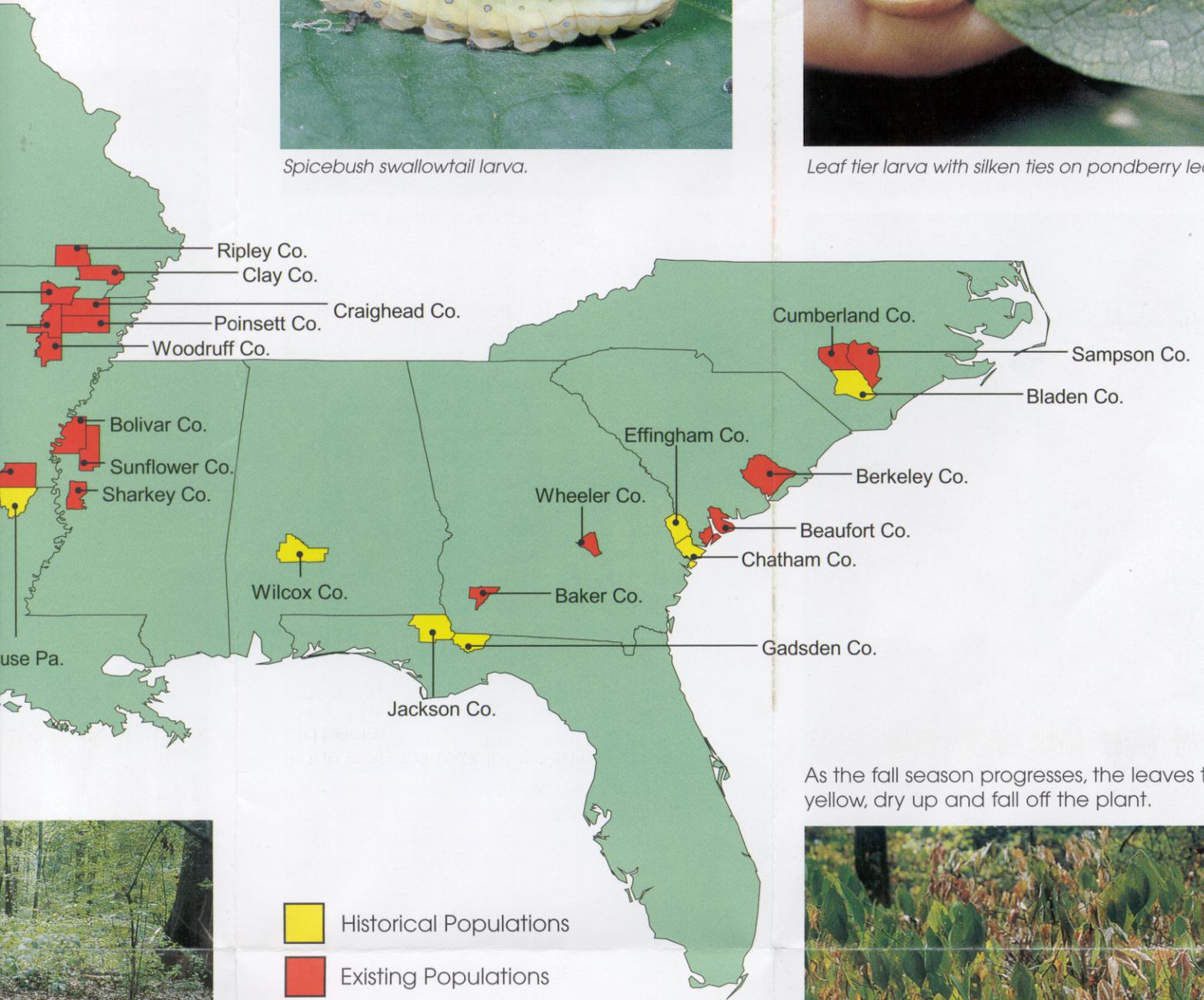
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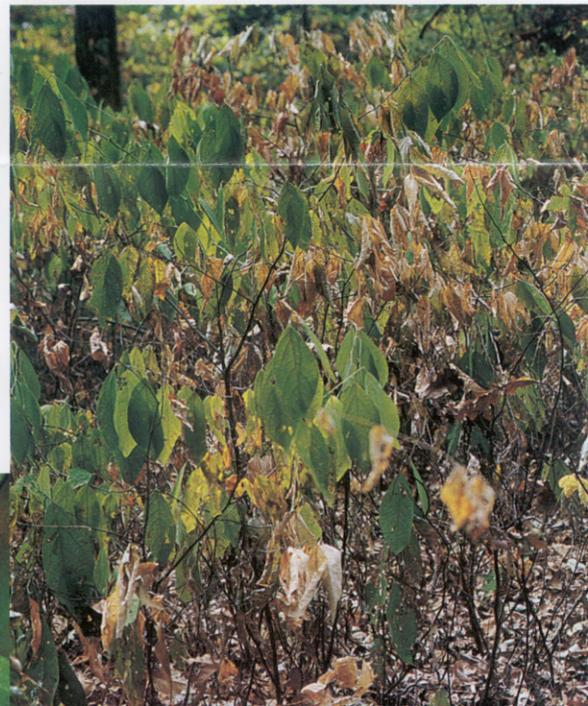
Leaf tier larva with silken ties on pondberry leaf.



As the fall season progresses, the leaves turn yellow, dry up and fall off the plant.



In the early fall, look for green leaves with red berries.



Look for stems with green fruits.



In the early fall, look for green leaves with red berries.

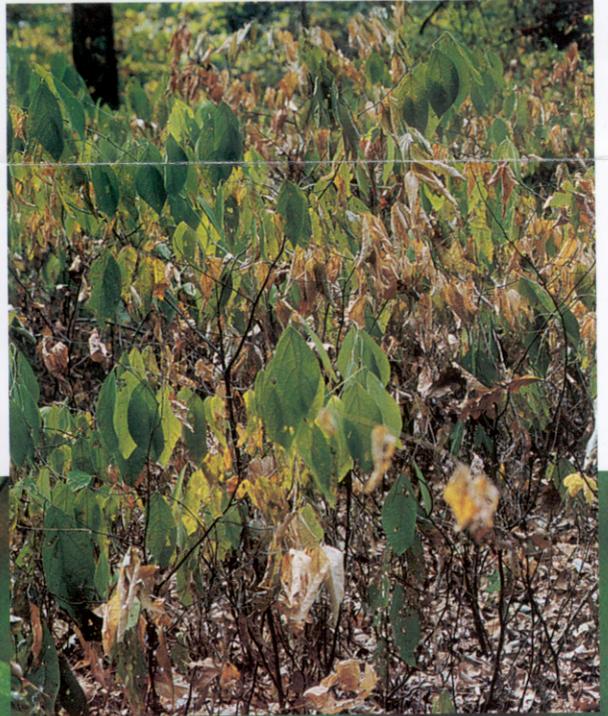
In the summer months, look for stems with light green leaves and green fruits.



- Historical Populations
- Existing Populations



As the fall season progresses, the leaves turn yellow, dry up and fall off the plant.



In the early fall, look for green leaves with red berries.

