1. Leaf blades with the tip broadly or bluntly pointed to shallowly notched; fruits in dense aggregates of 50–120, separated by persistent woody bracts, the infructescence thus resembling a small woody cone; young growth (twigs, leaves, and inflorescences) sticky or resinous ... 1. *Alnus*

2. Leaf blades with the tip narrowed or tapered to a sharp point; fruits either in clusters of 5 or fewer, or if more per cluster then the bracts shed after flowering; young growth not sticky or resinous

3. Bark peeling in thin, papery sheets; undersurface of the leaf blade glaucous; fruits samaras 2–3 mm long, more or less hidden between overlapping bracts to form a smooth, conelike infructescence that disintegrates at maturity ... 2. *Betula*

4. Bark smooth, ridged, grooved, or scaly, not peeling; undersurface of the leaf blade not glaucous; fruits nutlets or nuts 3–15 mm long, surrounded by bracts that do not overlap tightly, clustered or loosely overlapping to form an infructescence that is not smooth or conelike

5. Fruits spherical or depressed-spherical nuts 10–15 mm long, in clusters of 1–3(–5); leaf blades broadly ovate to broadly elliptic, with 6–9 veins on each side of the midrib ... 4. *Corylus*

6. Fruits ovoid or flat-ovate nutlets (mostly 2 or 3 per flower), 2–6 mm long, in clusters of mostly 10–25; leaf blades narrowly ovate or elliptic to obovate, with 10–16 veins on each side of the midrib

7. Bracts lobed, relatively flat, and not surrounding the fruits; bark smooth ... 3. *Carpinus*

8. Bracts unlobed, inflated, and surrounding the fruits; bark scaly ... 5. *Ostrya*