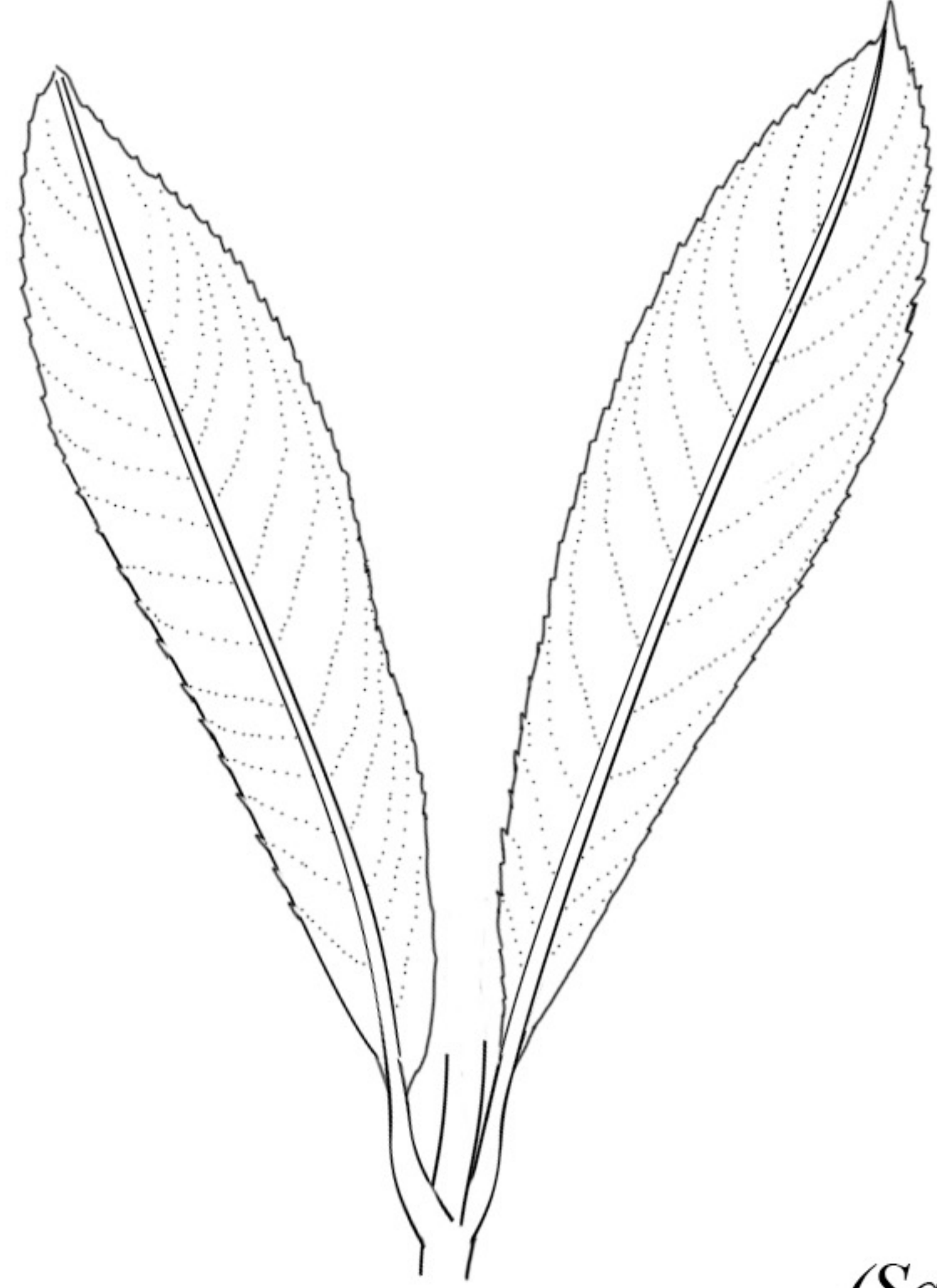


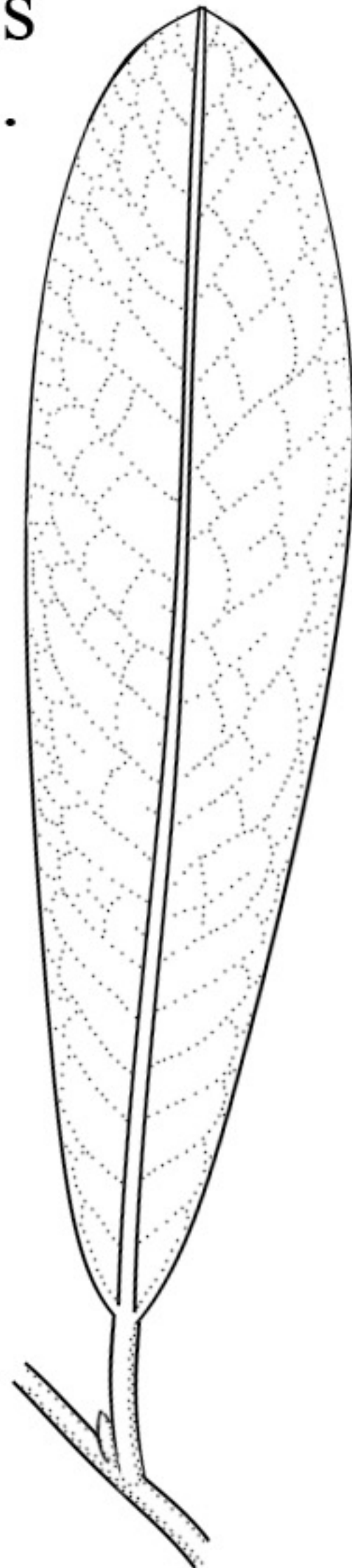
Illustrated Willows of the Chicago Region

LEAVES ENTIRE, CRENATE, OR CRISPED, NOT SERRATE; OFTEN REVOLUTE-MARGINED

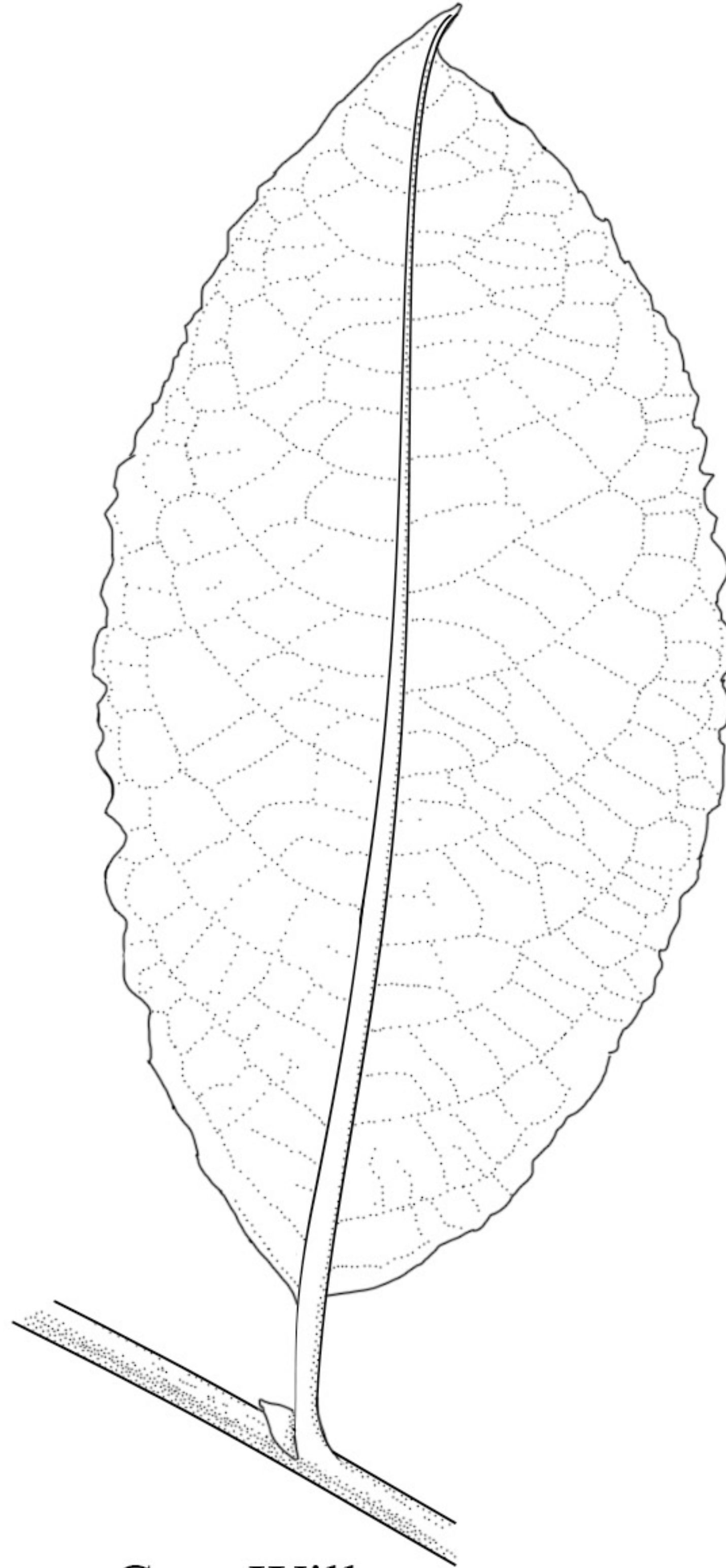
All but one species on this page are shrubs. C-values indicate how conservative they are to a remnant ecosystem. Species without C values are not native to the Chicago region. (See definitions on last page.)



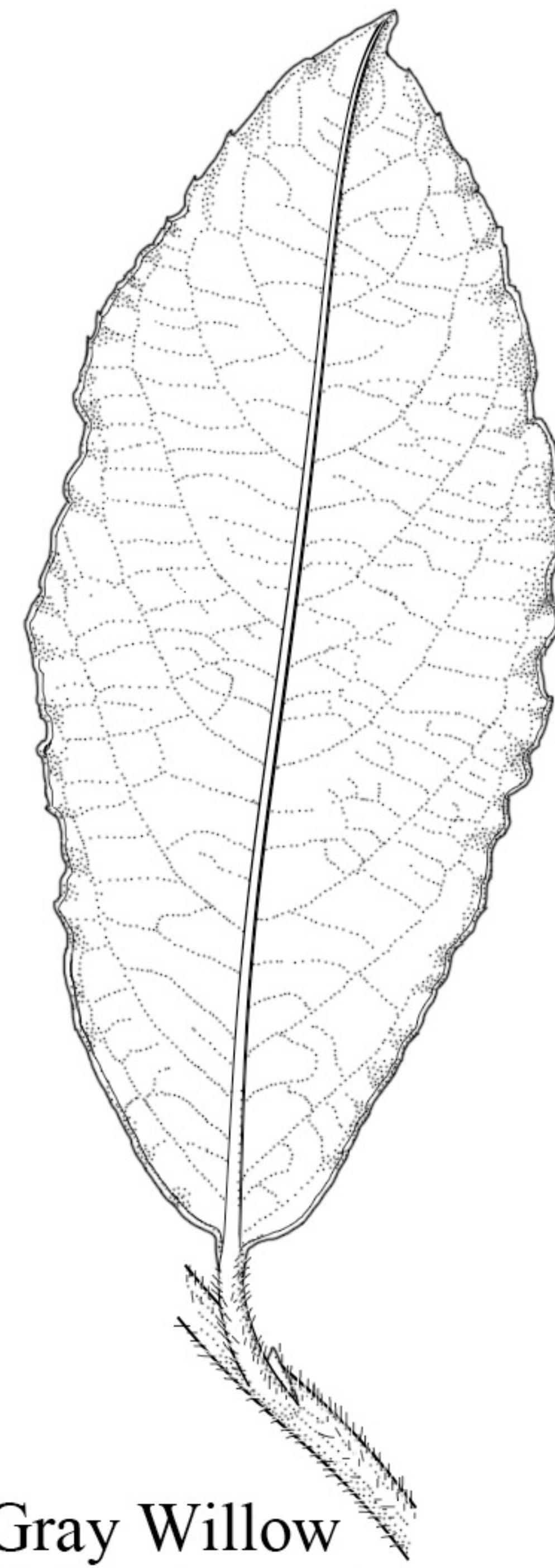
Purple Willow
(*Salix purpurea*)
Stipules absent; leaves opposite, glabrous; dark green above, pale below.



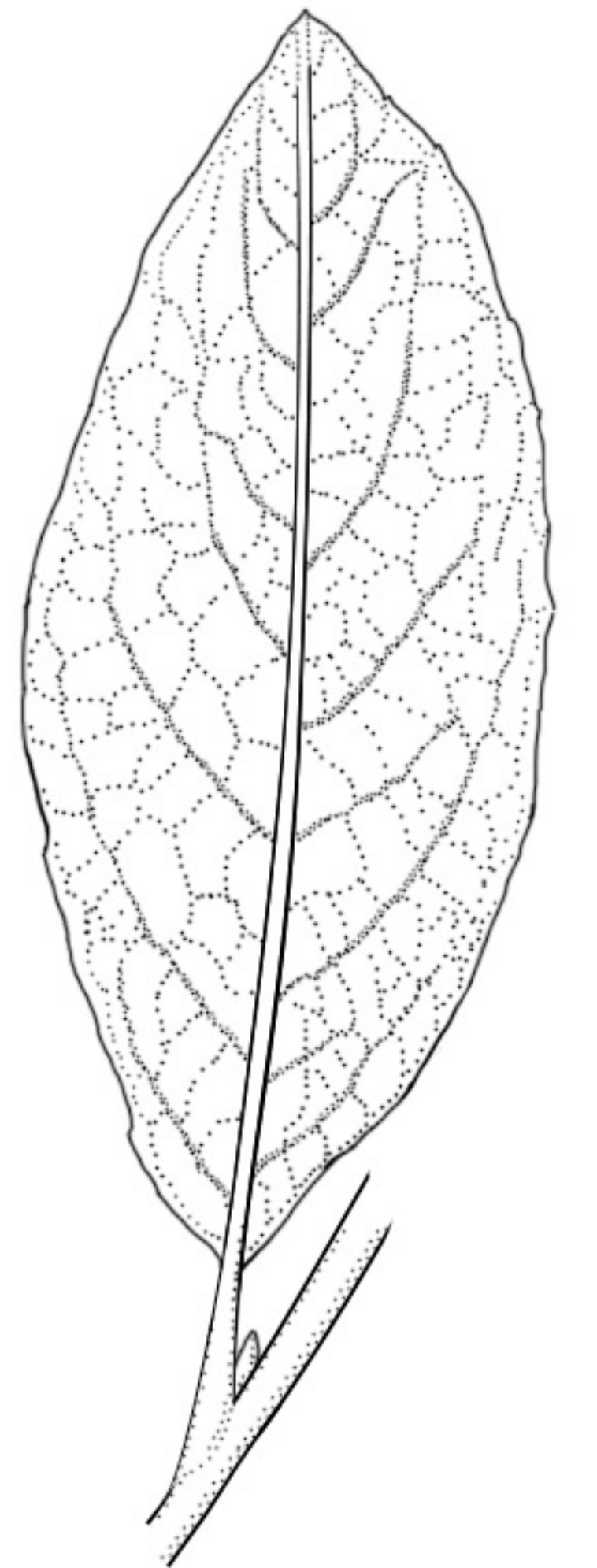
Bog Willow
(*Salix pedicellaris*)
Stipules absent; leaves glabrous on both sides, blue-green above, pale below. C=10



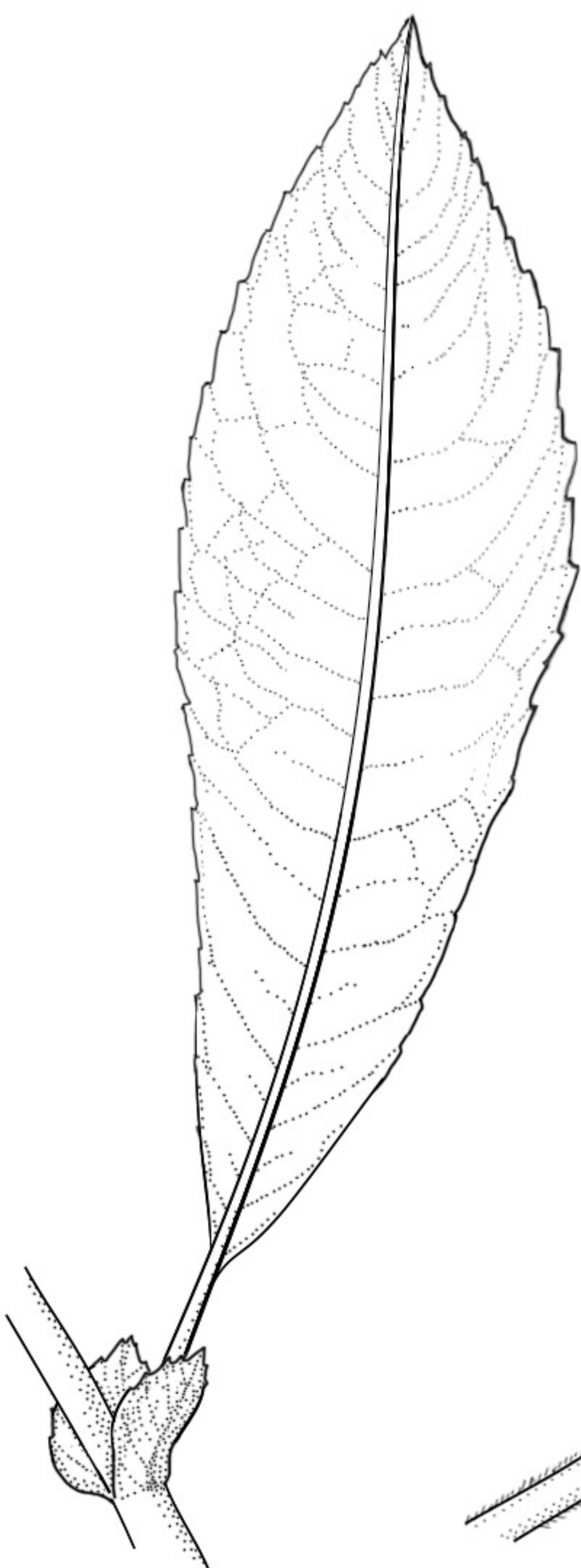
Goat Willow
(*Salix caprea*)
Leaves pubescent; stipules often present, second-year twigs glabrous.



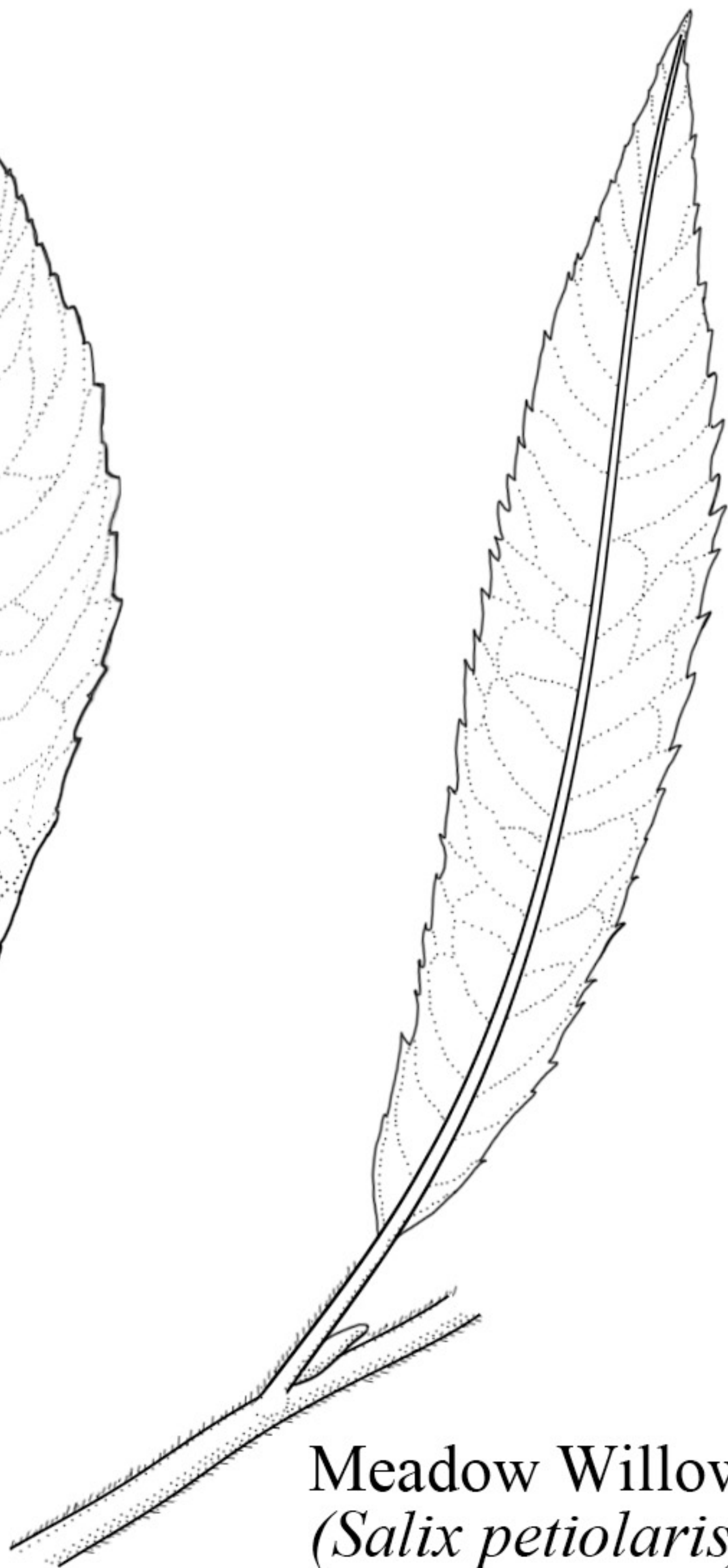
Gray Willow
(*Salix cinerea*)
Stipules often present; leaves pubescent; second-year twigs densely pubescent.



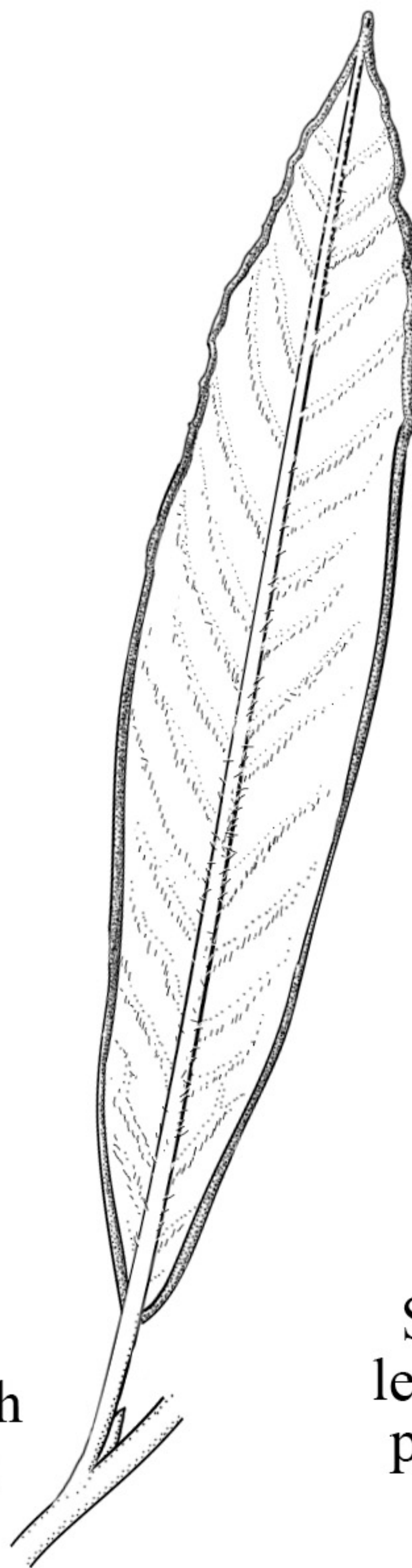
Beaked Willow
(*Salix bebbiana*)
Stipules usually absent; margins not revolute; leaves usually pubescent, green both sides, veins very noticeable beneath. C=9



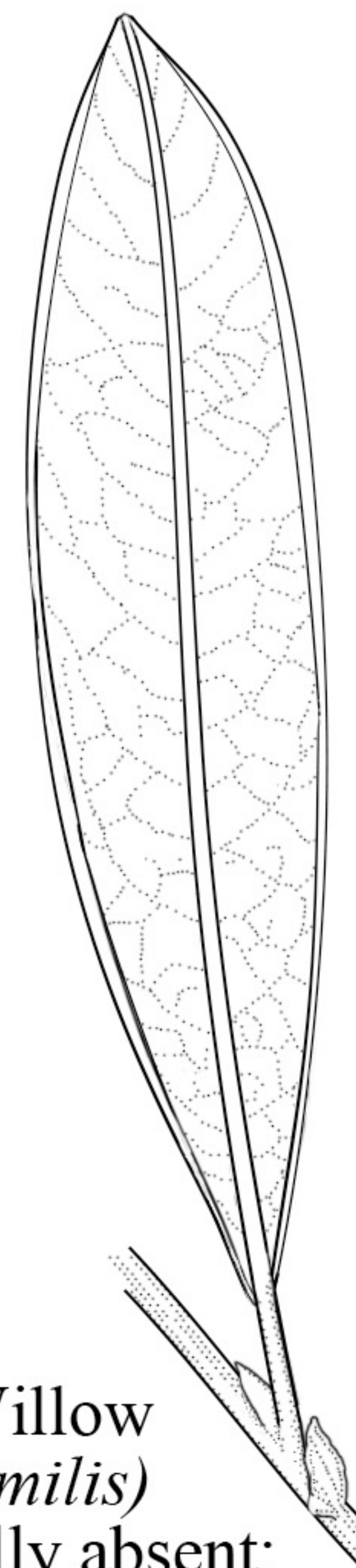
Pussy Willow
(*Salix discolor*)
Stipules often present; leaves unevenly and bluntly serrate; green above, pale beneath; glabrous or pubescent beneath. C=3



Meadow Willow
(*Salix petiolaris*)
Stipules absent; leaves glabrous or pubescent, with scattered cinnamon hairs; dark green above pale beneath, sharply serrate; twigs puberulent. C=7



Prairie Willow
(*Salix humilis*)
Stipules usually absent; leaves revolute-margined, pubescent on both sides. C=6

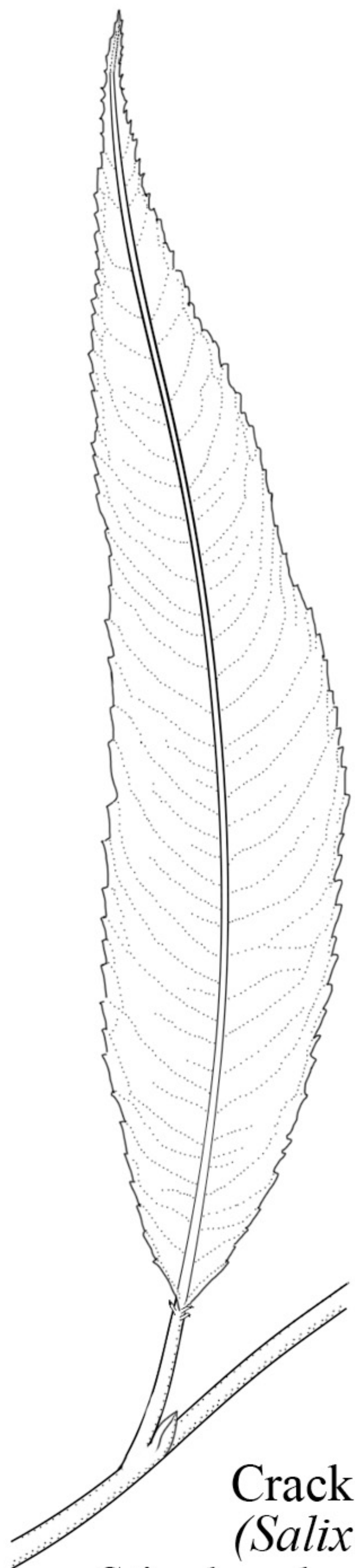


Silky Osier
(*Salix viminalis*)
Stipules absent; leaves green above, silvery-pubescent beneath; margins very finely serrate; large shrub or small tree.

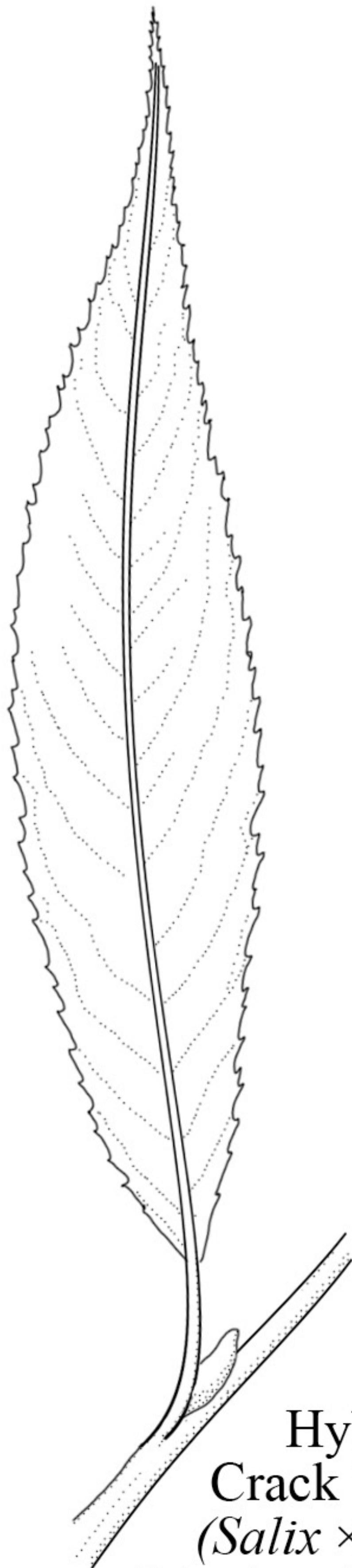
Illustrated Willows of the Chicago Region

EVENLY SERRATE OR SERRULATE, GLABROUS AND GREEN BENEATH

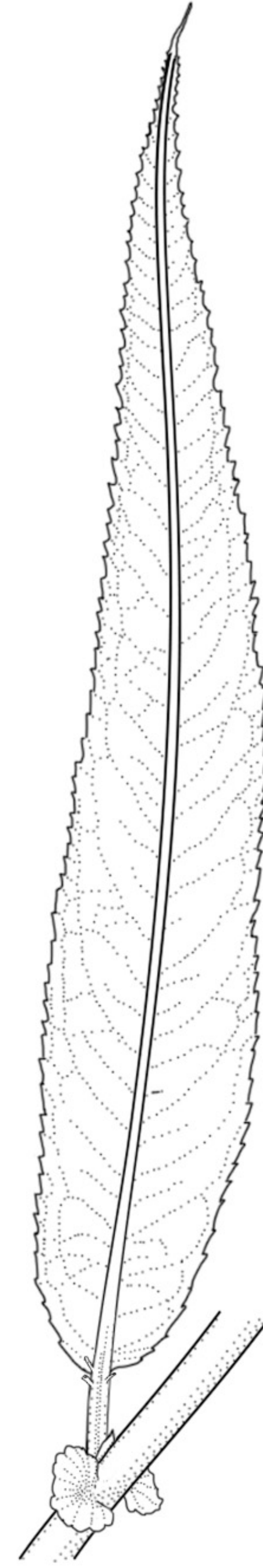
Top row:
Tree forms



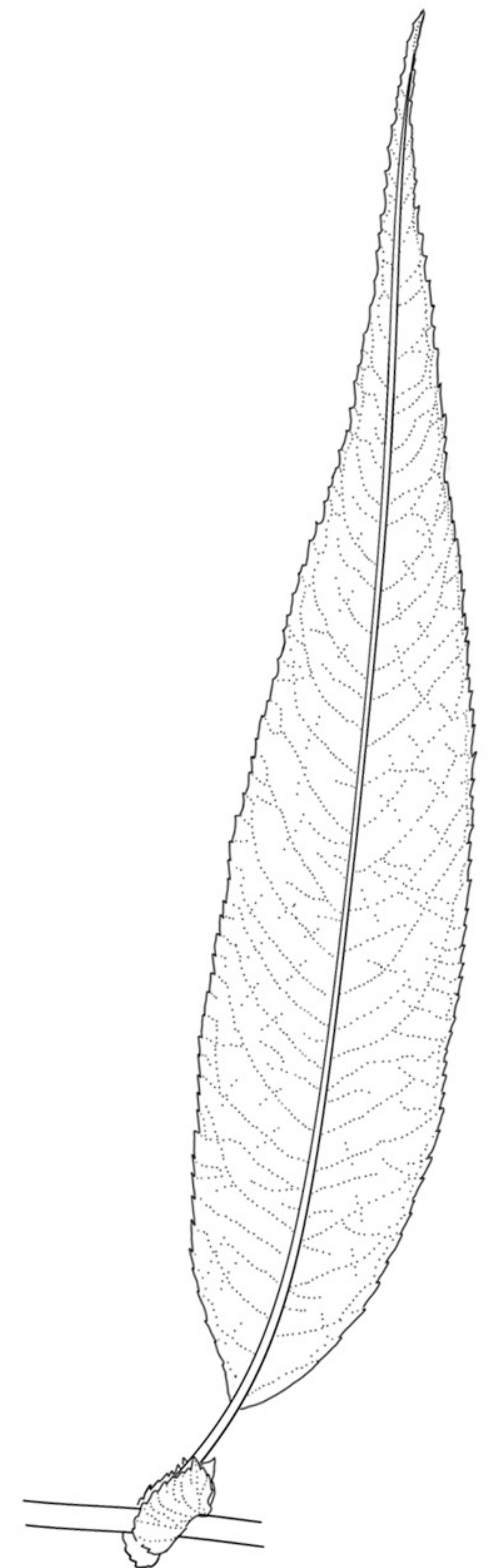
Crack Willow
(*Salix fragilis*)
Stipules absent; leaves with
callus-tipped teeth and
silky-hairy undersides.



Hybrid
Crack Willow
(*Salix x rubens*)
Stipules absent; teeth
callus-tipped; leaf undersides
sparsely silky-hairy.

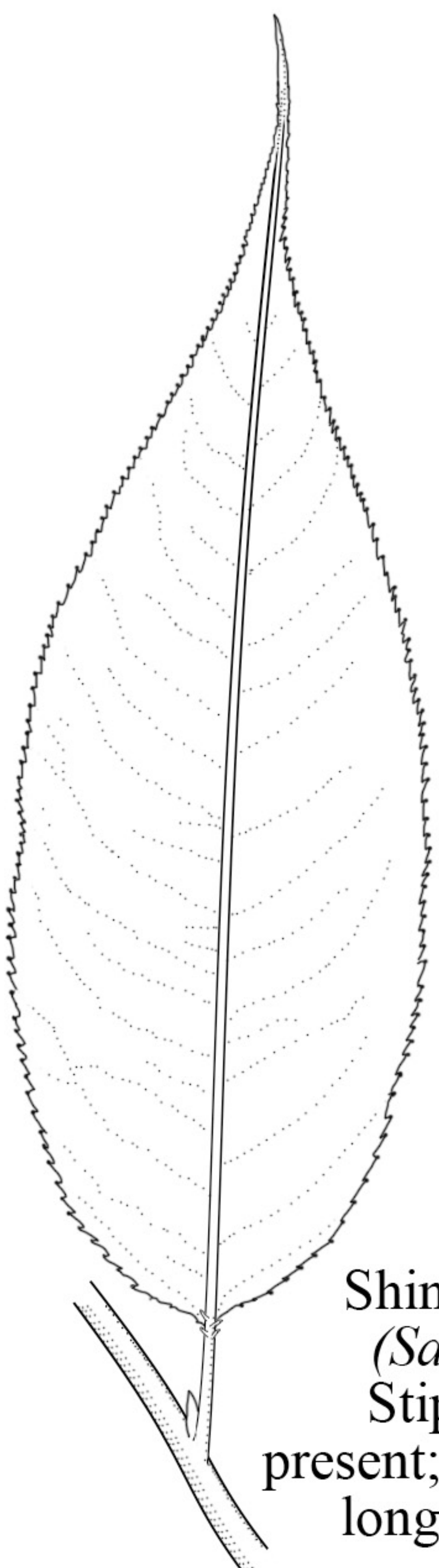


Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)
Stipules usually present;
leaves narrowly lanceolate,
short-petiolate. C=5

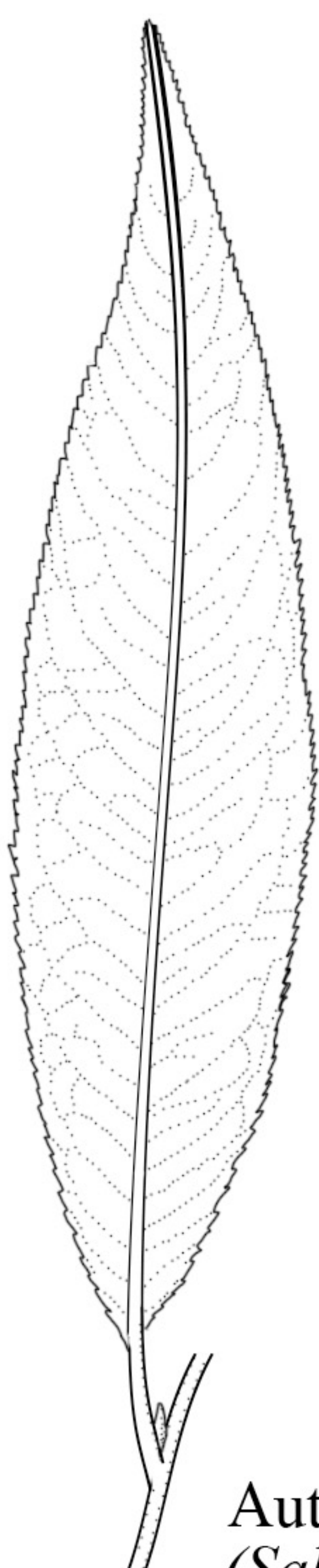


Hybrid Black Willow
(*Salix x glatfelteri*)
Stipules usually present;
leaves broadly
lanceolate. C=2

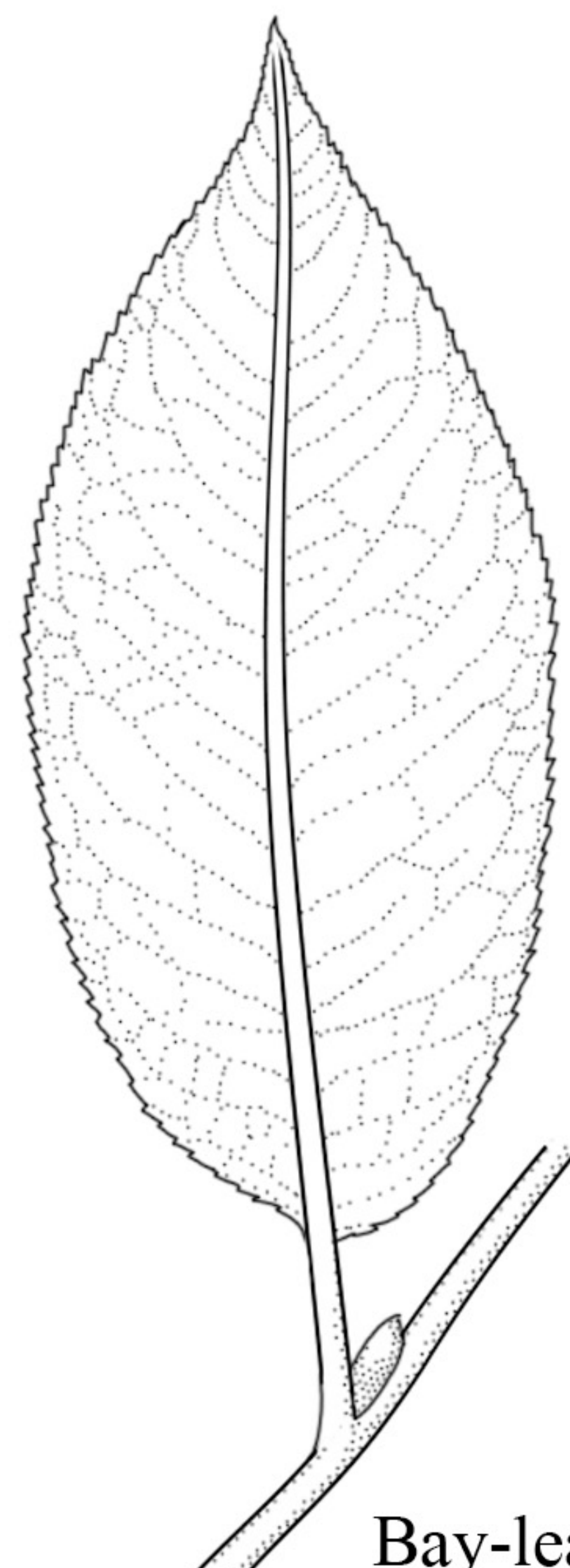
Bottom row:
Shrubs



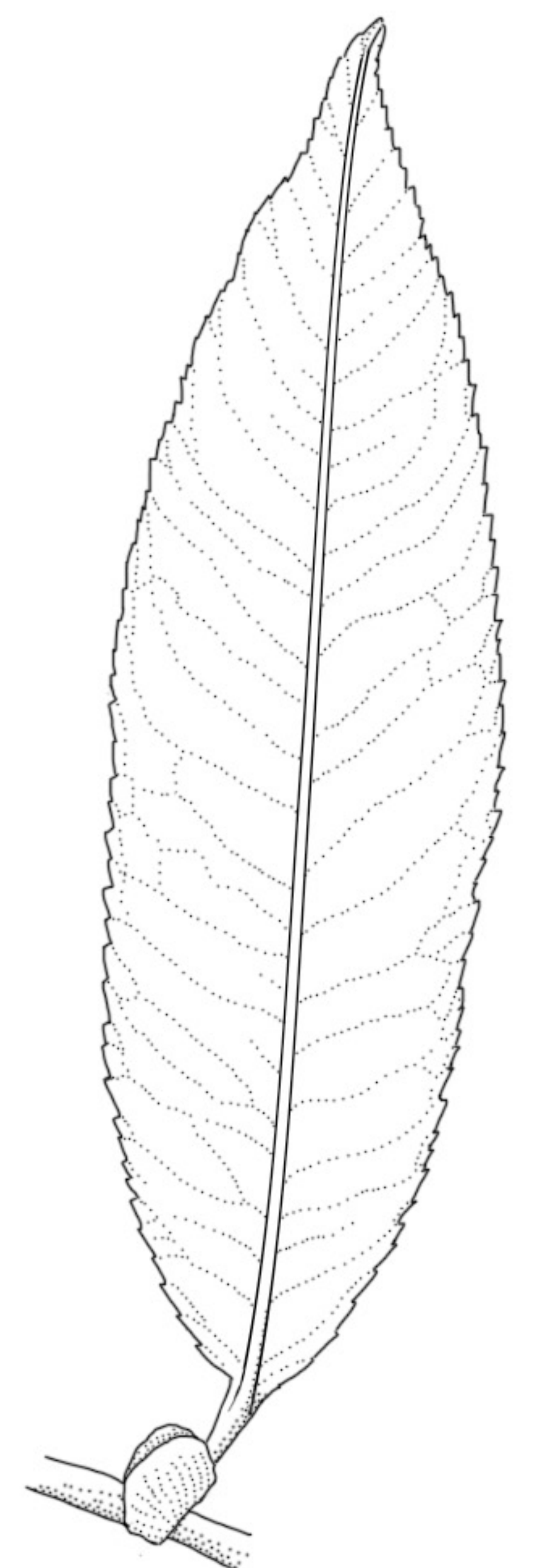
Shining Willow
(*Salix lucida*)
Stipules often
present; leaves glossy,
long-acuminate.
C=10



Autumn Willow
(*Salix serissima*)
Stipules absent; distal
leaves green, without
red tinges. C=10



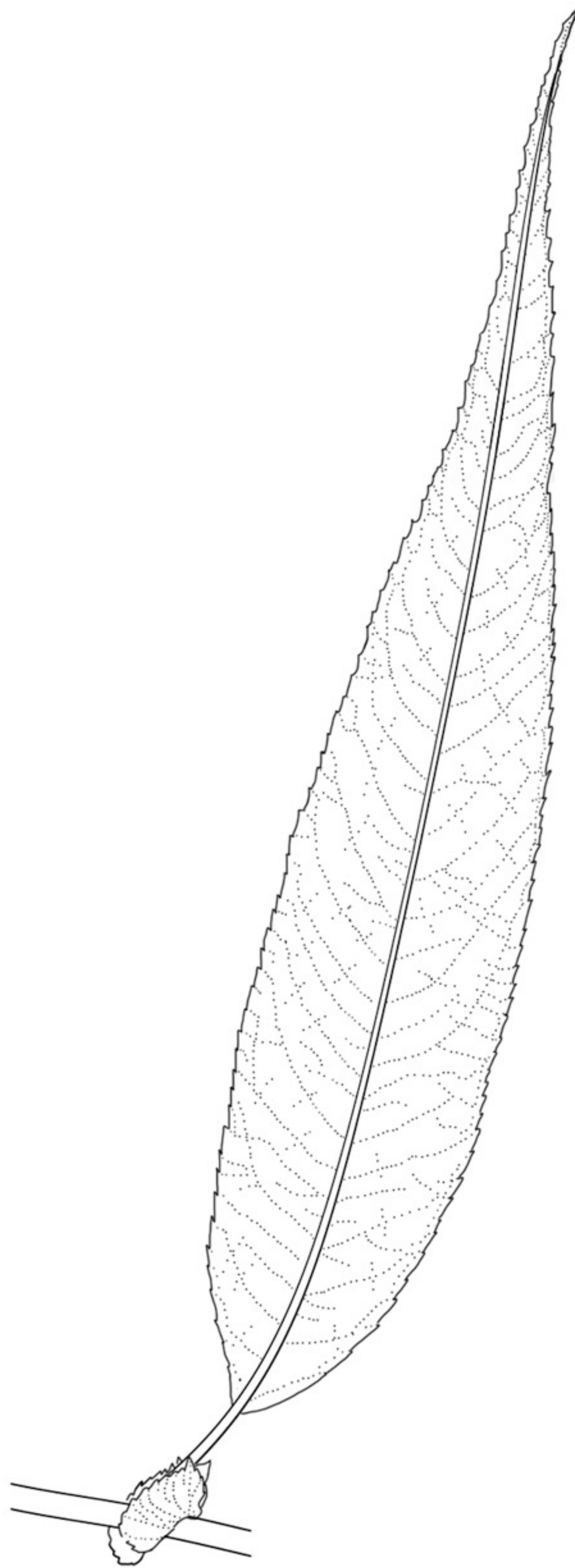
Bay-leaved Willow
(*Salix pentandra*)
Stipules tiny or
usually absent; leaves
short-acuminate.



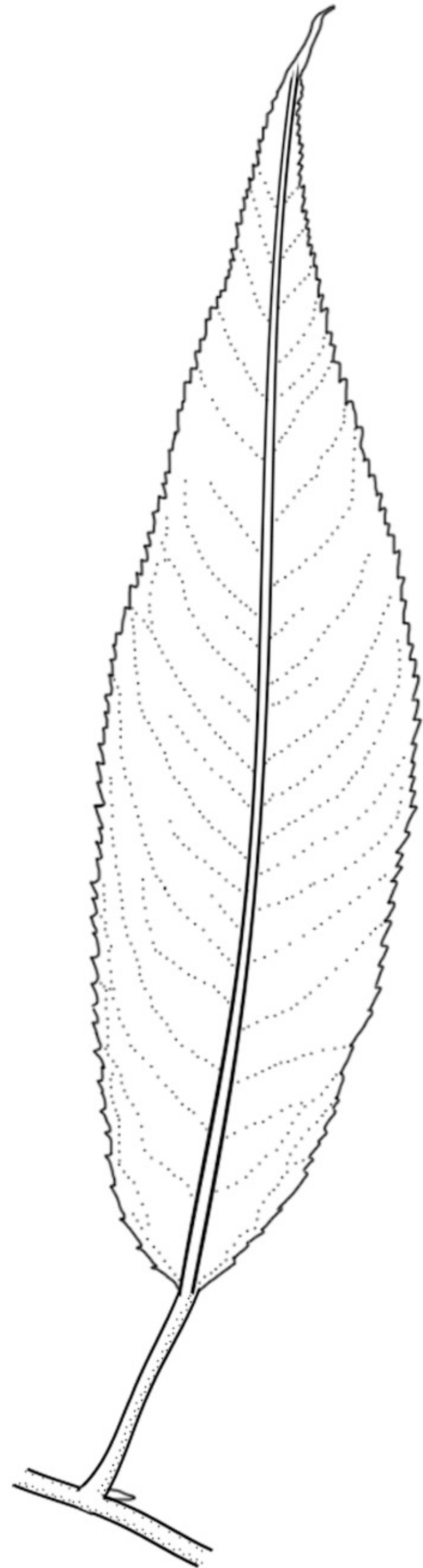
Heart-leaved Willow
(*Salix eriocephala*)
Stipules present; distal
leaves red-tinged.
C=5

Illustrated Willows of the Chicago Region

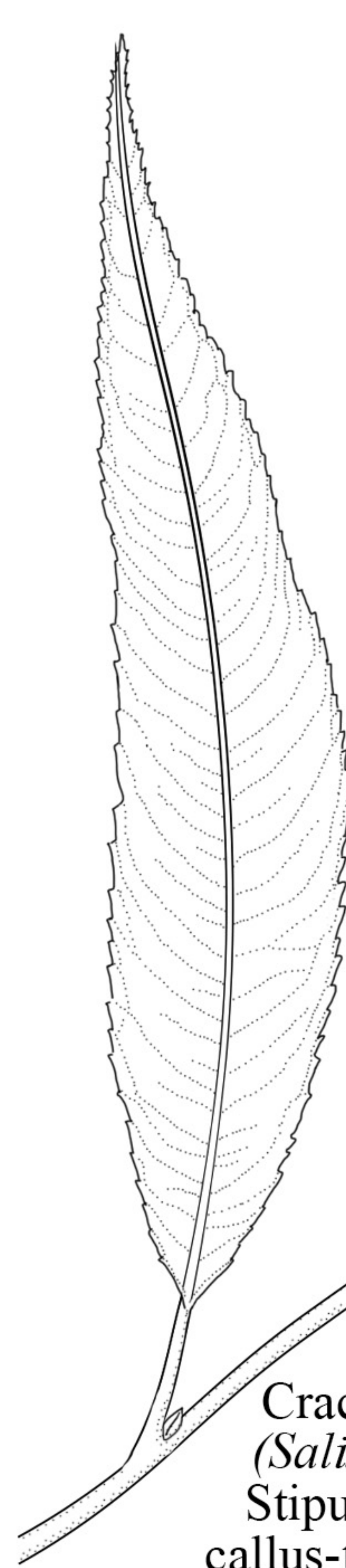
LEAVES EVENLY SERRATE OR SERRULATE; GLAUCOUS OR PALE BENEATH



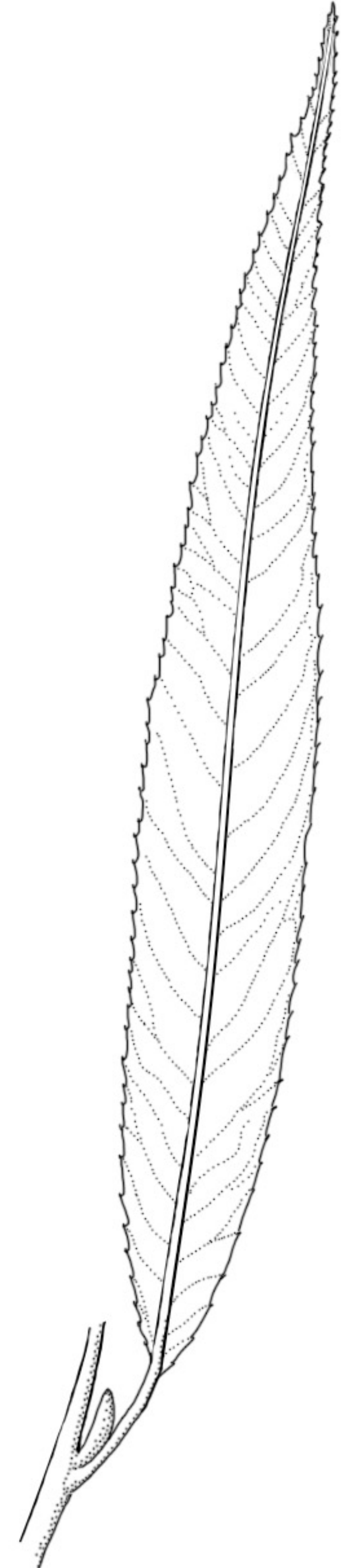
Hybrid Black Willow
(*Salix ×glatfelteri*)
Stipules often present;
leaves short-petiolate. C=2



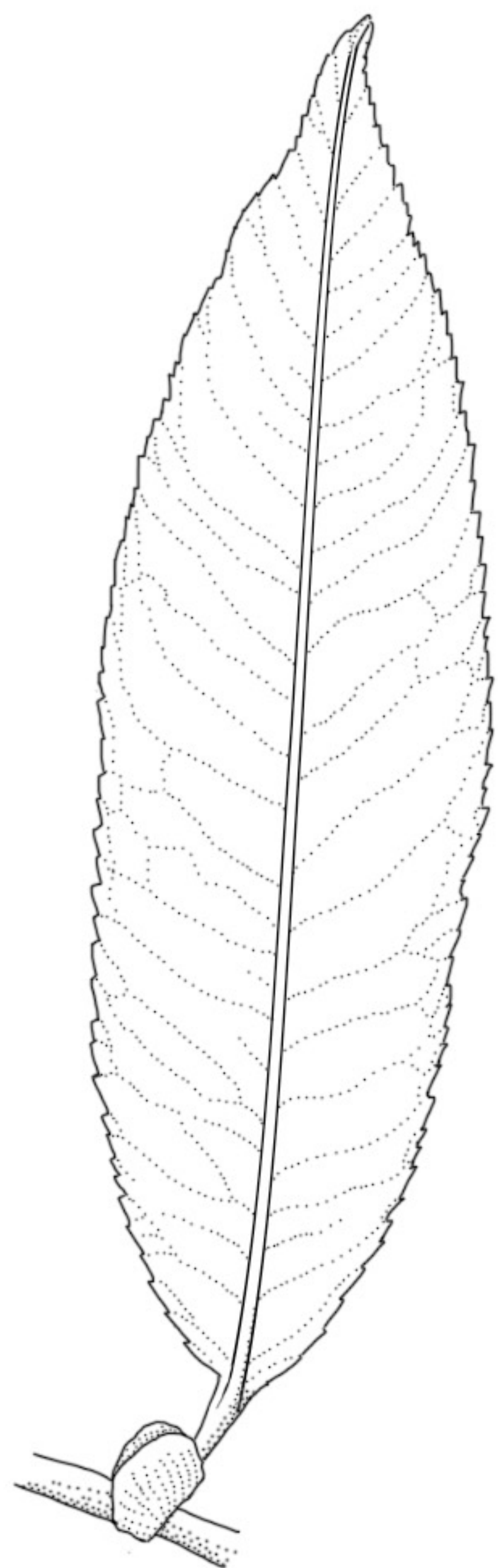
Peach-leaved Willow
(*Salix amygdaloides*)
Stipules sometimes present;
leaves long-petiolate, pale or
bluish beneath. C=4



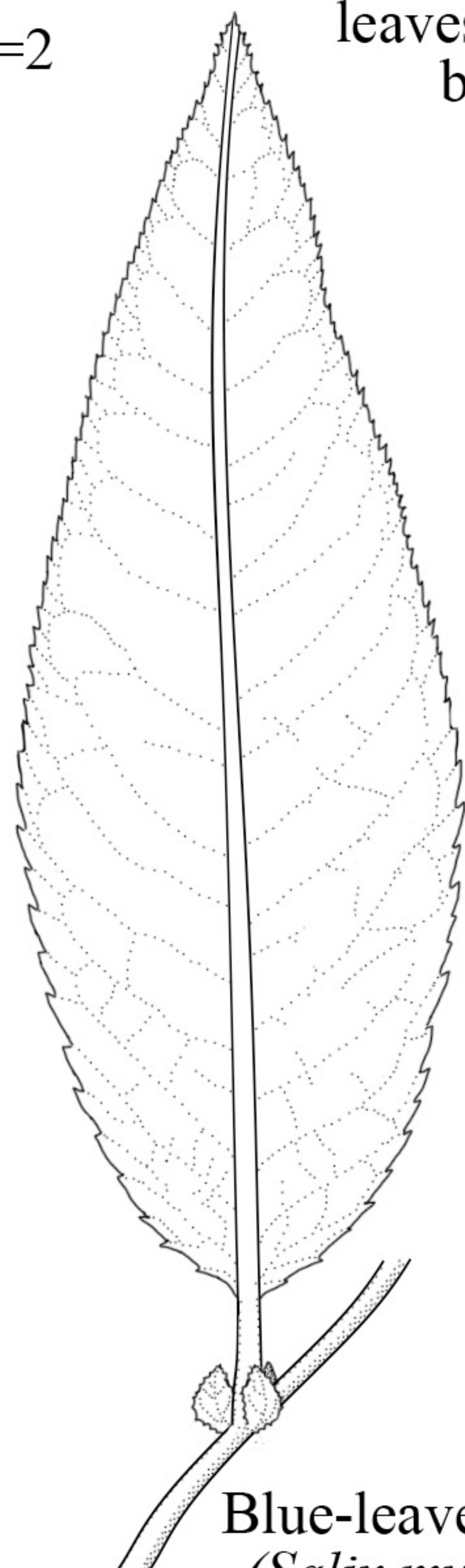
Crack Willow
(*Salix fragilis*)
Stipules absent;
callus-tipped teeth.



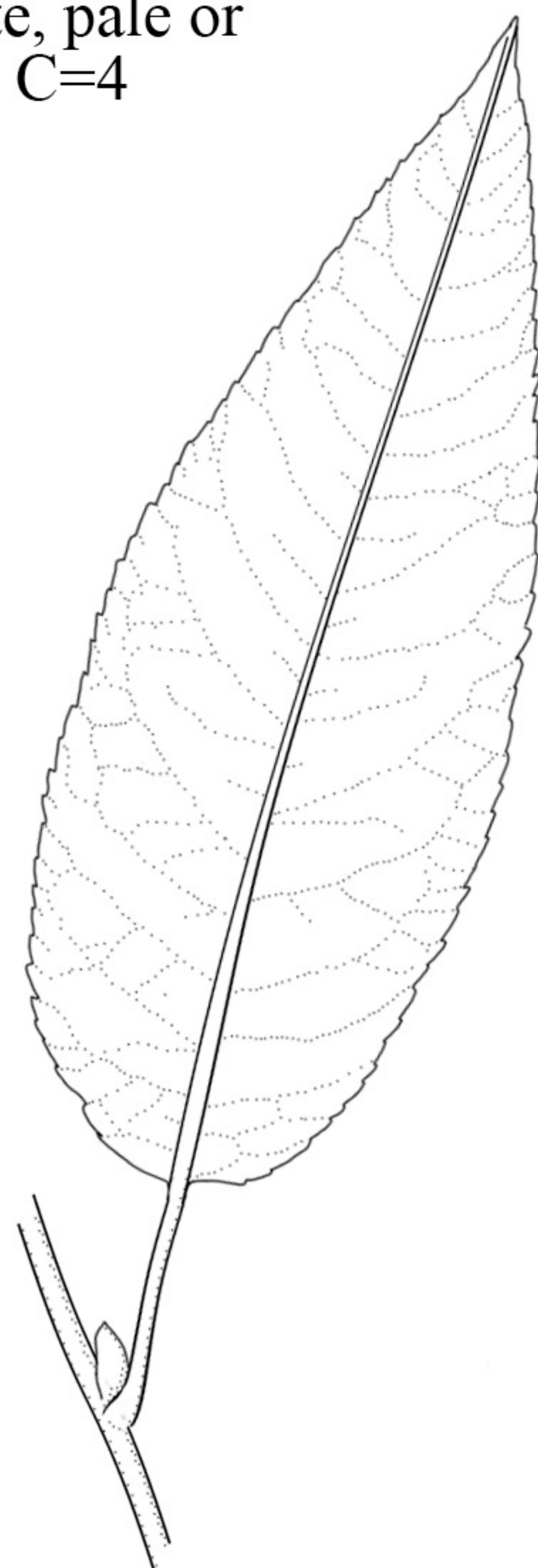
Weeping Willow
(*Salix babylonica*)
Stipules absent;
drooping branches.



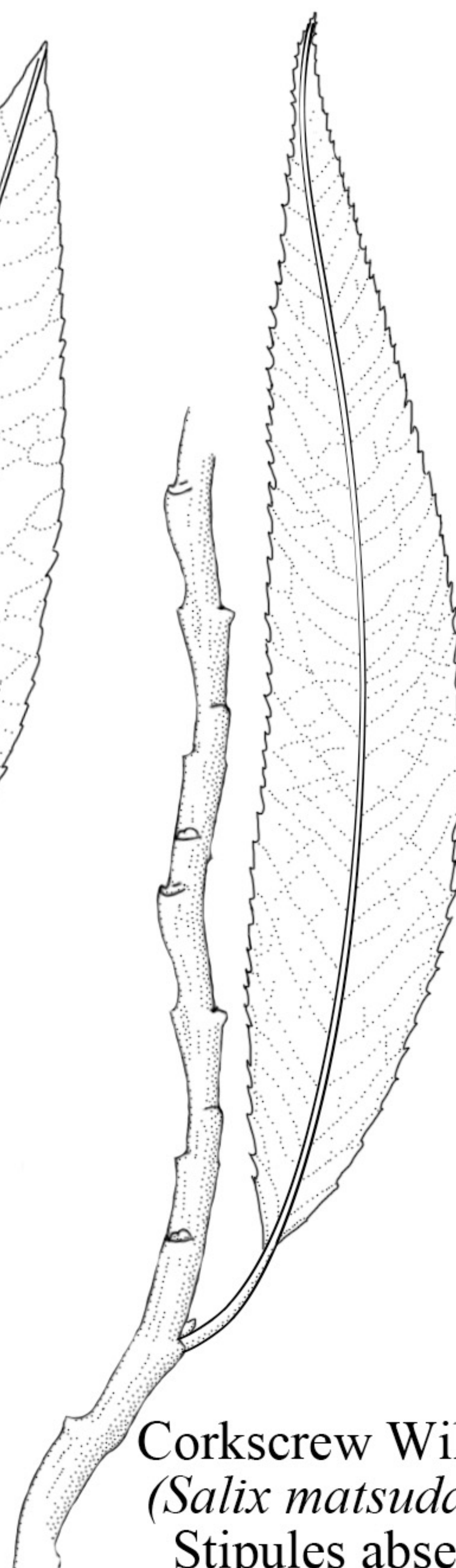
Heart-leaved Willow
(*Salix eriocephala*)
Stipules often present;
distal leaves red-tinged.
C=5



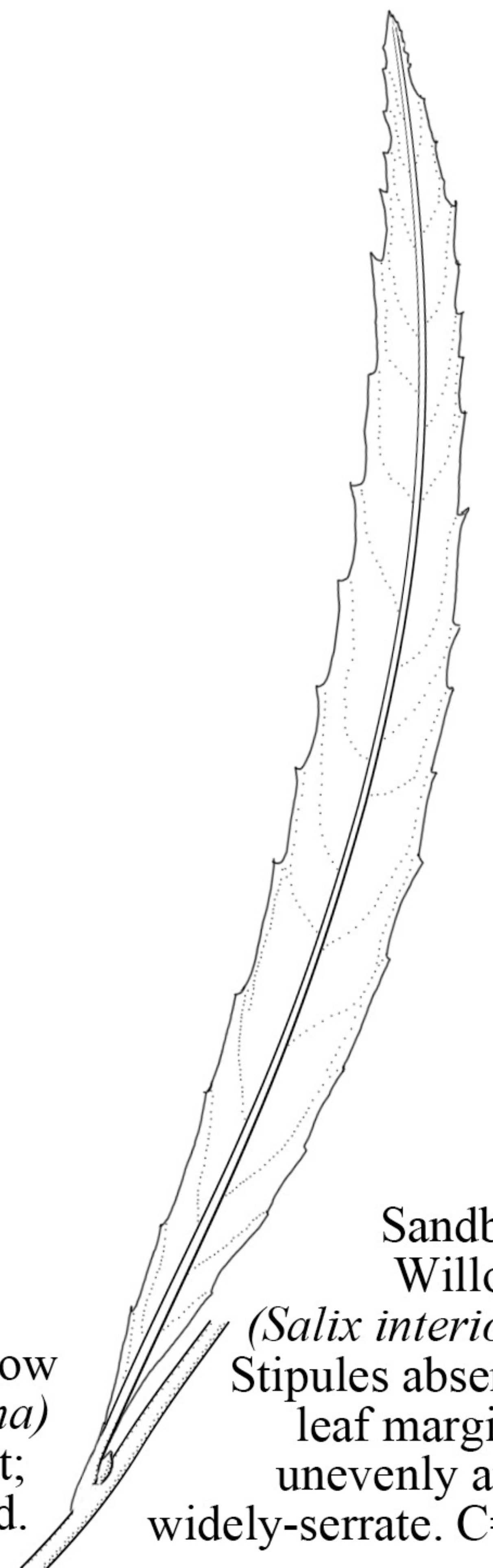
Blue-leaved Willow
(*Salix myricoides*)
Stipules often present;
branchlets yellowish
or brownish. C=7



Balsam Willow
(*Salix pyrifolia*)
Stipules tiny or
absent; branchlets
lustrous red. C=5



Corkscrew Willow
(*Salix matsudana*)
Stipules absent;
twigs contorted.

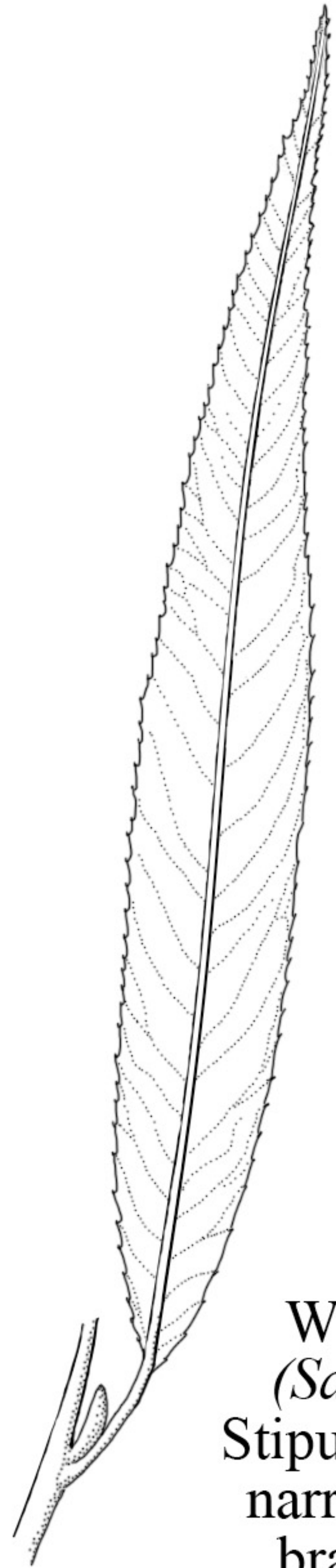


Sandbar
Willow
(*Salix interior*)
Stipules absent;
leaf margins
unevenly and
widely-serrate. C=2

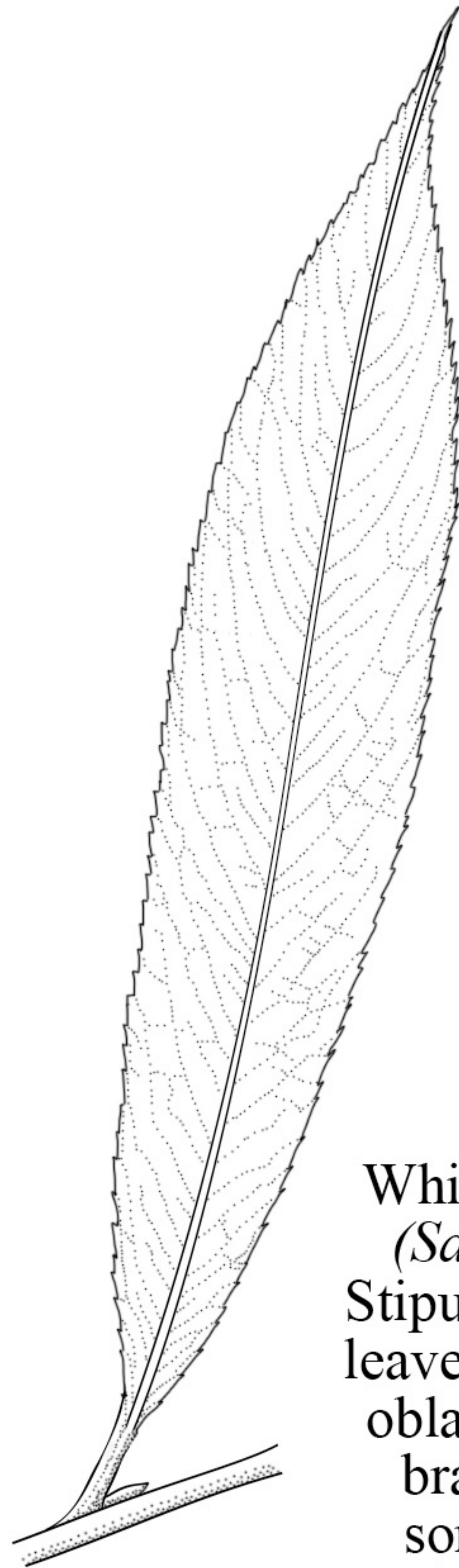
Illustrated Willows of the Chicago Region

LEAVES EVENLY SERRATE OR SERRULATE; PUBESCENT, OR WITH APPRESSED SILKY HAIRS BENEATH

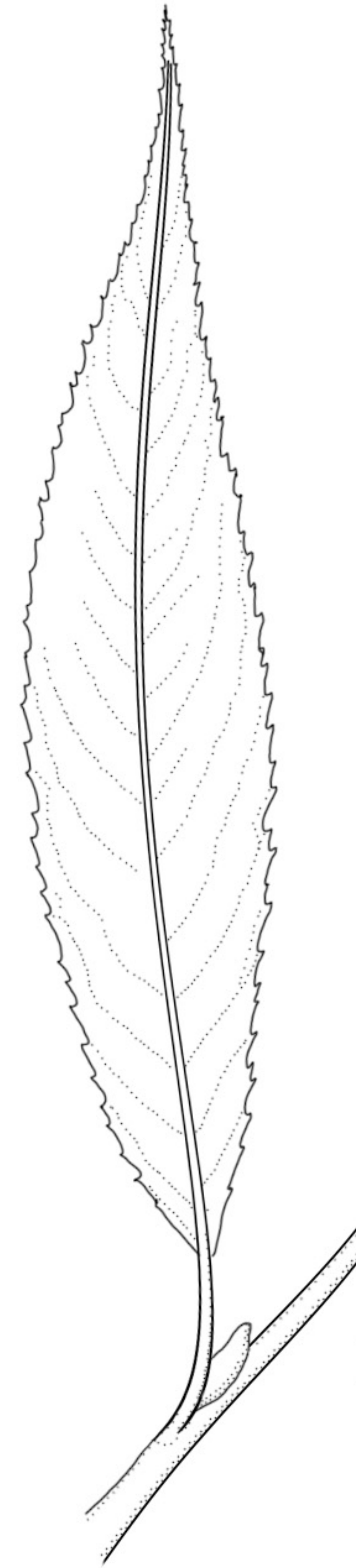
Top row: Trees



Weeping Willow
(*Salix babylonica*)
Stipules absent; leaves narrowly lanceolate; branchlets always drooping.

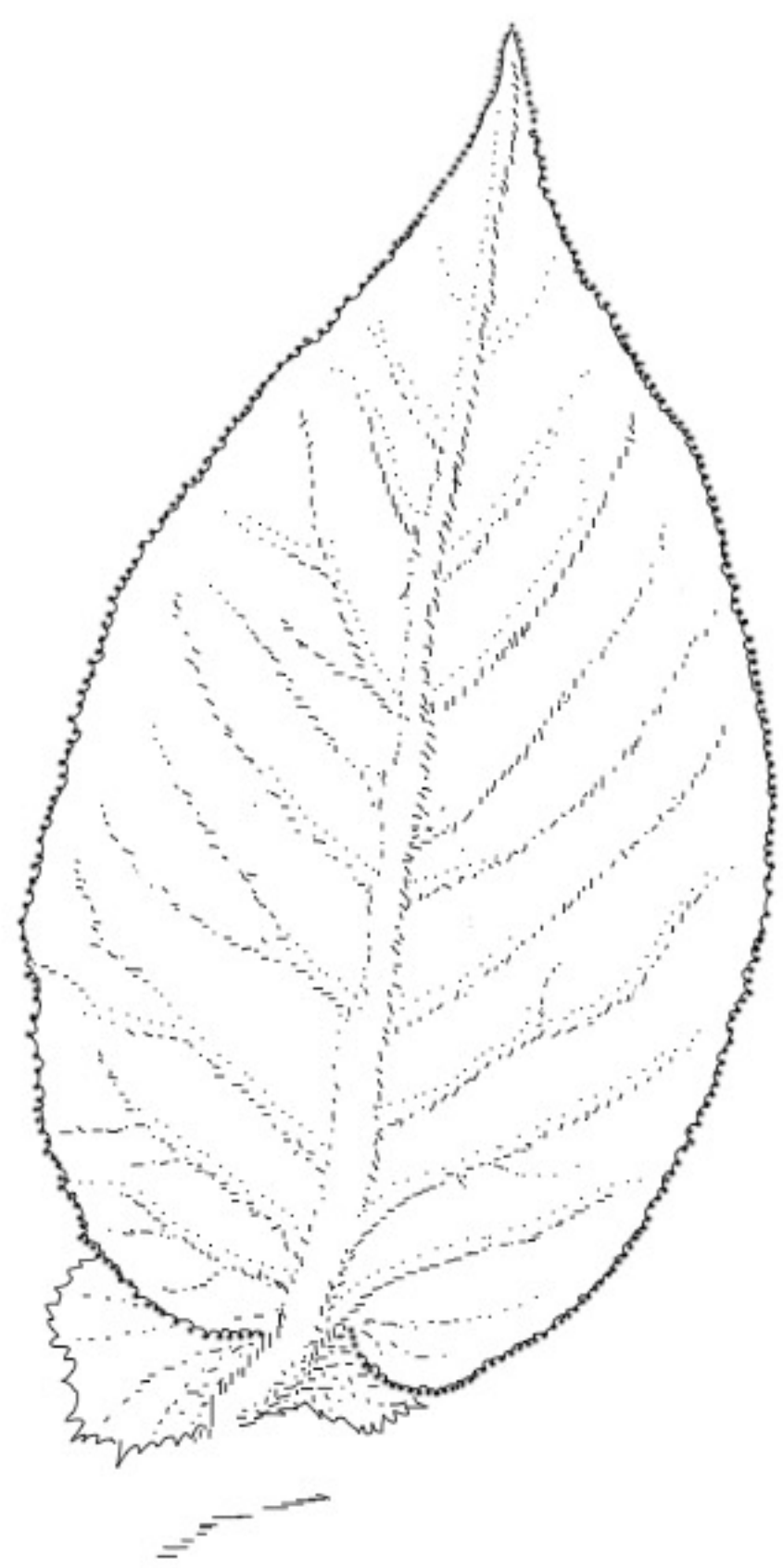


White Willow
(*Salix alba*)
Stipules absent; leaves narrowly oblanceolate; branchlets sometimes drooping.

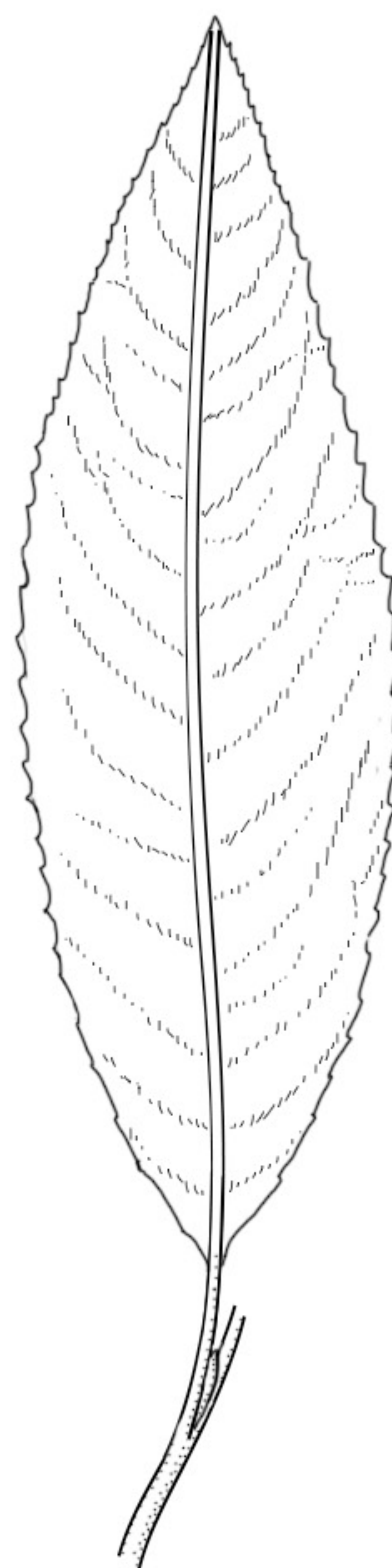


Hybrid Crack Willow
(*Salix x rubens*)
Stipules absent, leaf teeth callus-tipped.

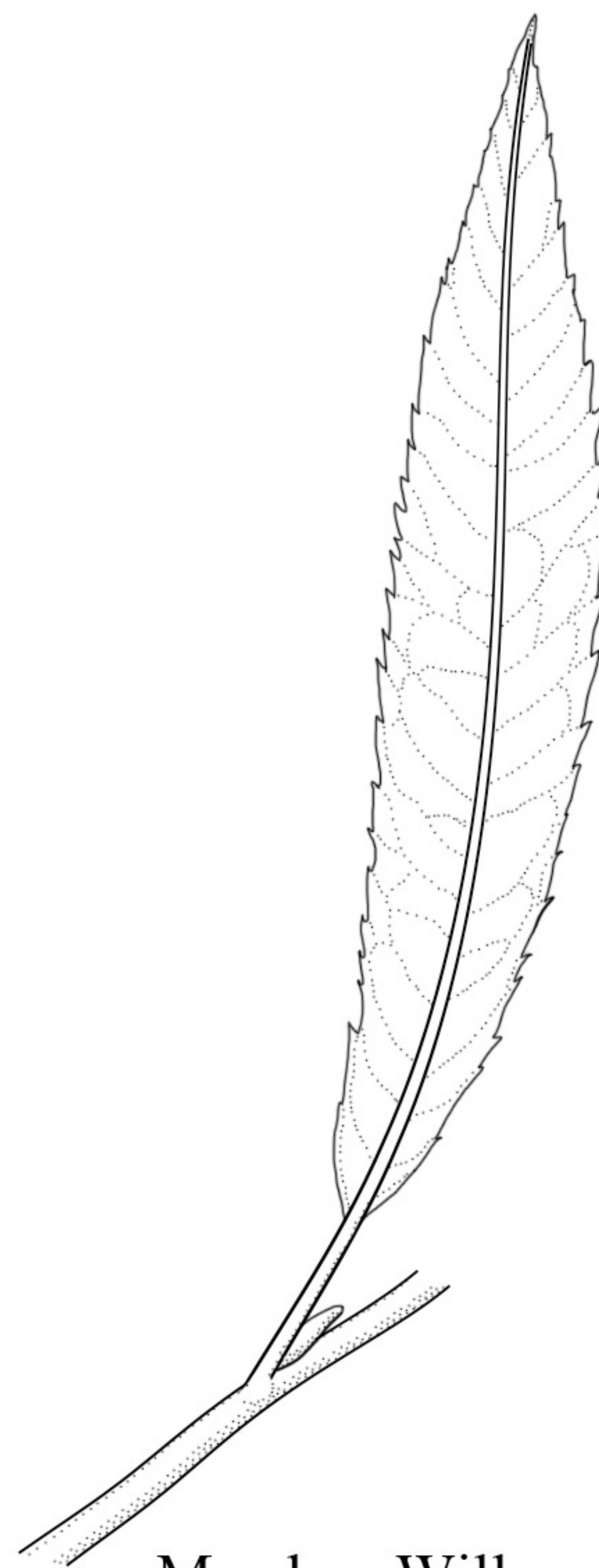
Bottom row: shrubs



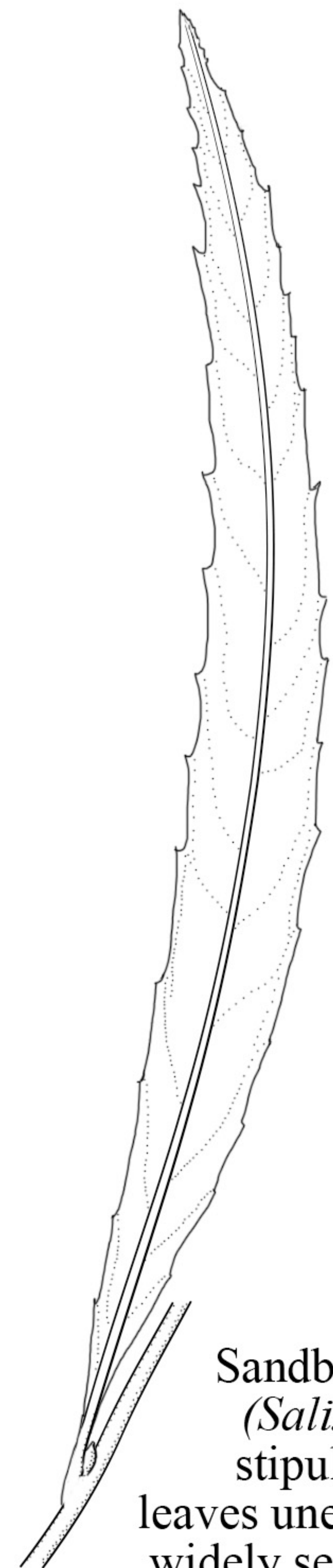
Dune Willow
(*Salix syrticola*)
Stipules large, persistent; leaves hairy throughout. C=10



Silky Willow
(*Salix sericea*)
Stipules soon absent; leaves serrulate. C=10



Meadow Willow
(*Salix petiolaris*)
Stipules absent; leaves serrate, glabrous or pubescent with scattered cinnamon hairs. C=7



Sandbar Willow
(*Salix interior*)
stipules absent, leaves unevenly and widely serrate. C=2

The willow species concepts presented here are those articulated by Wilhelm and Rericha in the *Flora of the Chicago Region: a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis* published in 2017 by the Indiana Academy of Science, which goes into detail on taxonomic variation, nomenclature, and habitat. Most willows are shrubs. The only native tree willows are *Salix nigra* and *Salix amygdaloides* and their putative hybrid, *Salix ×glatfelteri*. All other tree willows are ruderal or cultivated escapes. One of the more common willow misidentifications is the identification of *Salix ×rubens* or *Salix fragilis* as *Salix nigra*. Another is the misidentification of weeping cultivars of *Salix alba* as *Salix babylonica*.

How to use this guide:

This illustrated guide is meant to be used with a leaf in hand. Review the descriptions and compare your specimen to the features described in bold faced type. Note relative width of leaf blade, look for glands on the petioles and hairs on upper or lower surfaces - look carefully with a hand lens. For more information on willows see the *Flora of the Chicago Region*.

Habitats:

(note: S indicates shrubs, T for trees)

Ruderal/Weedy areas:

Salix alba T
Salix babylonica T
Salix caprea S
Salix cinerea S
Salix fragilis T
Salix matsudana S
Salix pentandra S
Salix purpurea S
Salix ×rubens T
Salix viminalis S

Dry Prairie:

Salix humilis S
Bog or fen:
Salix bebbiana S
Salix candida S
Salix lucida S
Salix myricoides S
Salix pedicellaris S
Salix petiolaris S
Salix pyrifolia S
Salix sericea S
Salix serissima S

Wet prairie:

Salix bebbiana S
Salix discolor S
Salix eriocephala S
Salix lucida S
Salix petiolaris S
Marsh:
Salix discolor S
Salix eriocephala S
Salix interior S
Salix nigra T
Salix sericea S

Dunesland:

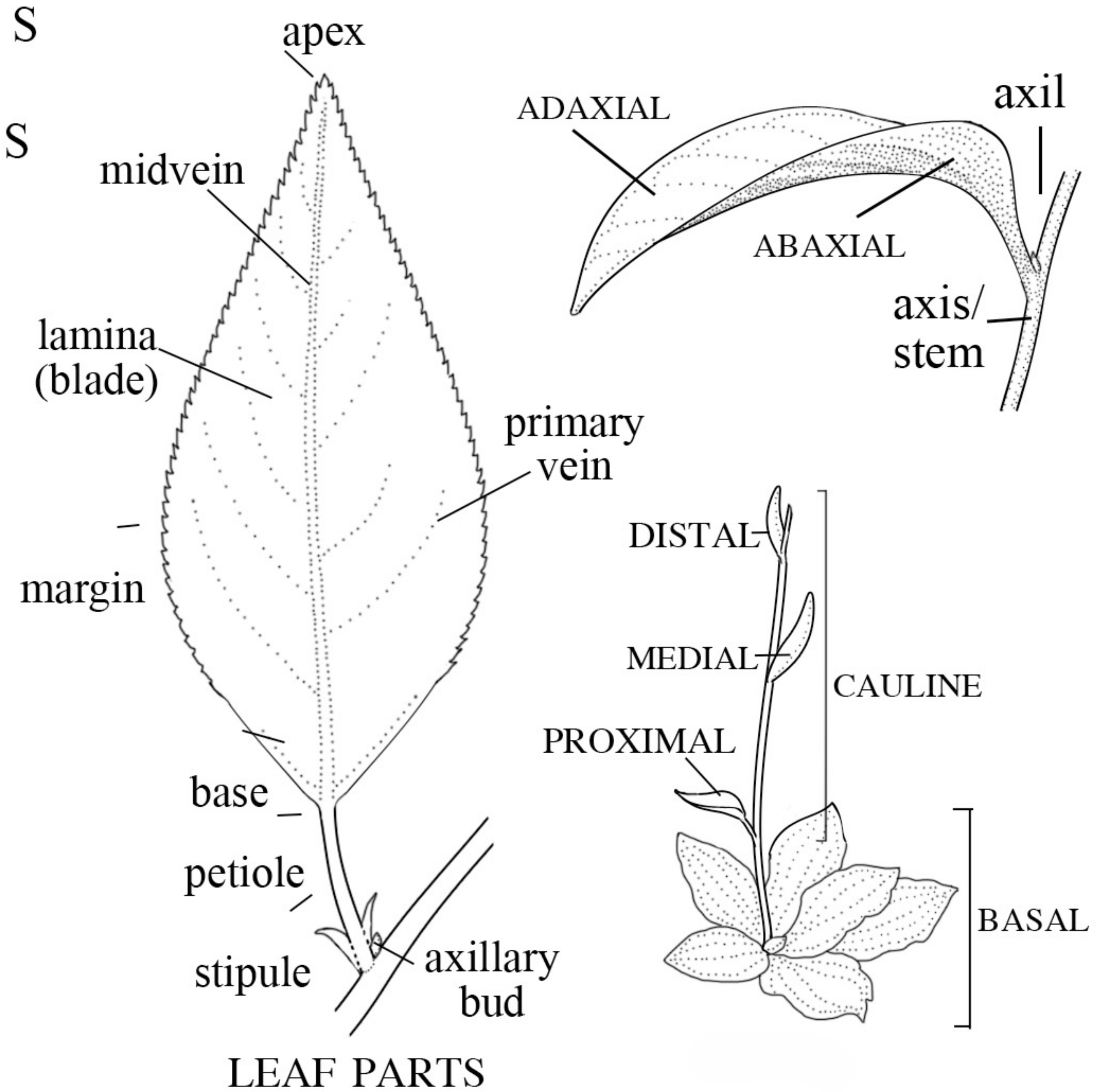
Salix discolor S
Salix interior S
Salix myricoides S
Salix syrticola S
Salix sericea S
Salix eriocephala S

Bottomland:

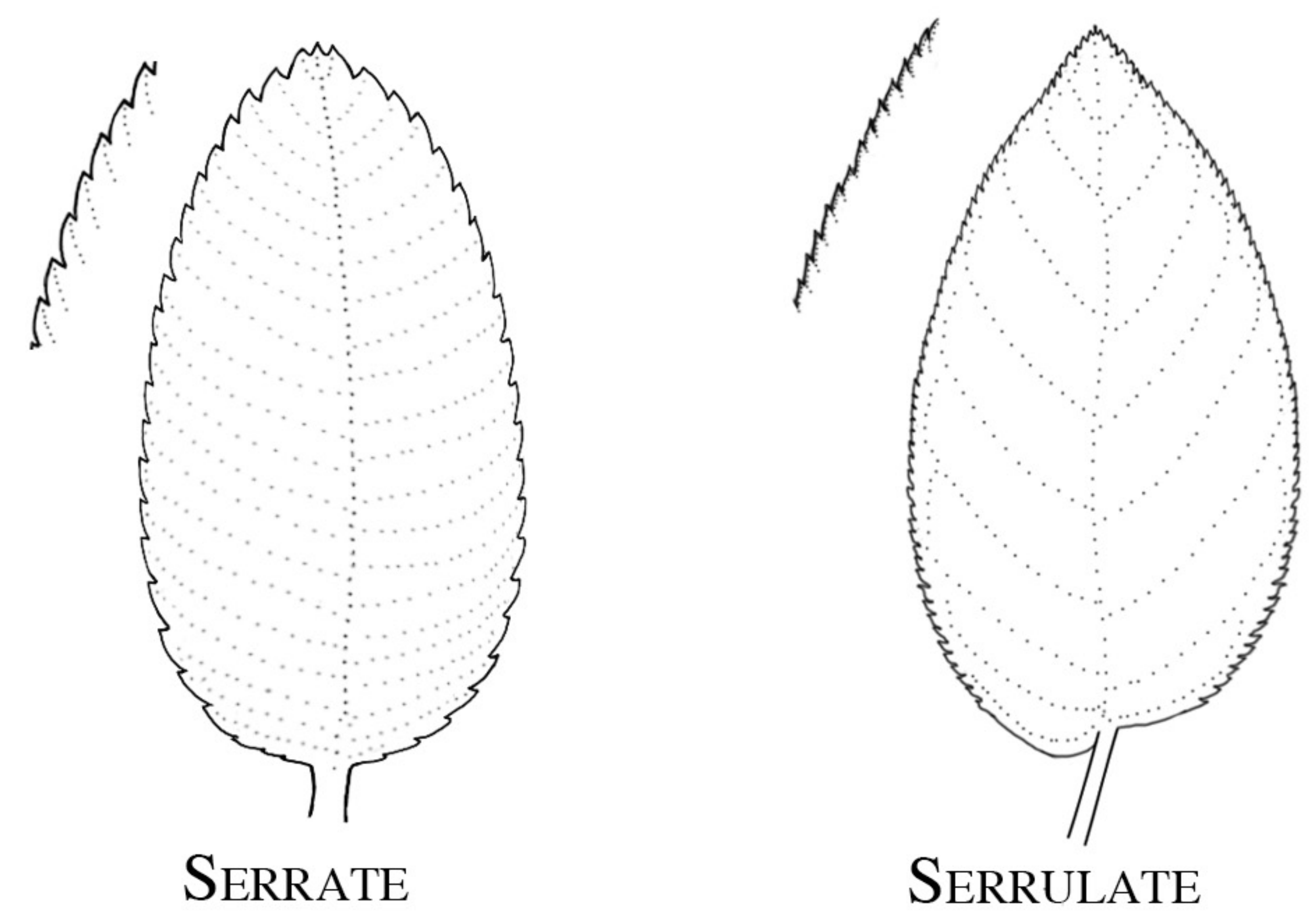
Salix amygdaloides S
Salix ×glatfelteri T
Salix eriocephala S
Salix nigra T

Glossary:

- abaxial:** facing away from the axis
- acuminate:** tapering to a slender tip
- adaxial:** facing toward the axis
- axis:** the central part of the stem
- branchlet:** a small division of a branch
- callus:** a hard protuberance or thickening
- crenate:** very shallowly toothed with broad, blunt teeth
- crisped:** curly, wavy, or crinkled
- distal:** the direction away from the base or point of attachment
- glabrous:** hairless
- glaucous:** covered by a white or pale blue waxy bloom
- lanceolate:** lance-shaped, widest below the middle and tapering to a narrow tip, several times longer than wide.
- margins:** the edges, as of a leaf blade
- opposite:** arranged in pairs along an axil; not alternate
- petiole:** the stalk of a leaf
- persistent:** remaining attached, especially after withering
- proximal:** at or near the base; the lowermost one to few
- pubescent:** hairy
- revolute:** describing a leaf margin rolled over to the abaxial (lowermost) side of the leaf
- serrate:** with sharp, typically forward-pointing teeth
- serrulate:** minutely serrate
- shrub:** a woody plant, typically smaller than a tree, with a habit of branching from the base
- stipule:** an appendage situated at either side of a leaf axil
- tomentose:** densely pubescent with matted hairs
- tree:** a woody plant, usually, usually higher than a shrub, usually unbranched at the base and with a strong central leader



LEAF PARTS



SERRATE SERRULATE