MOUNTAIN CEDAR

Juniperus ashei

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

TRIBE: Cupressineae

GENUS: Juniperus

SPECIES: ashei

COMMON NAMES: Mountain Cedar, Mexican Cedar, Rock Cedar, Ozark White Cedar

POLLEN GRAINS: Spheroidal, 20.5 to 23 microns in diameter. Exine thin, transparent, and irregularly flecked with granules. Intine very thick with inner boundary more or less angular. Moisture absorption causes swelling and rupturing with the exine being thrown off. Thus cast exines are often found with intact grains.

POLLINATING PERIOD: December and January

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Missouri, Arkansas and Texas into Mexico.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: **Important where occurring in quantity.**

Mountain Cedar typically is a small shrub-like tree varying in shape from broad, round-topped to narrow and pyramidal. Although usually not more than 30 ft. in height, occasional specimens are found to 100 ft. Like most other Junipers this species is dioecious, the male trees producing the pollen from myriads of tiny staminate cones and the female trees producing the bluish "berries."

Although of limited distribution, this species of Juniper has received considerable mention as a serious cause of winter hayfever within its range. Overgrazing practices in the past are reported to have made possible the invasion by the Mountain Cedar over much of what used to be Texas grassland.



Female Plant

Juniperus ashei
(Mountain Cedar)

Male Plant