

# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

## *Lindheimer Chapter*

### PLANT OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY, 2011

#### ***ANAQUA, EHRETIA ANACUA***



**Close-up of Flower**



**Fruit**

Anaqua is also known as Knockaway or Sandpaper Tree. Anaqua is a derivation of the Aztec name for the tree. Knockaway is an English adaptation of the name. The name Sandpaper Tree comes from the rough texture of the leaves. Whatever you choose to call it, this is a wonderful ornamental and wildlife tree. In the spring the tree is covered with fragrant white flowers that are enjoyed by bees. These are followed 6 weeks later by edible yellow or orange fruit which are a favorite of birds and small mammals. In fact, German settlers in New Braunfels had another name for this tree: Vogelbeerenbaum /*fogel-beren-baum*/, which translates as 'Birdberry Tree'.

Anaqua is a native of southern Texas and northern Mexico, and will freeze back in the cold winters of North Texas. Its very dark green leaves are distinctive in the landscape. An interesting advantage for the Anaqua in our area is that it may hold on to its leaves during mild winters, giving it the appearance of an evergreen. Anaqua can grow to be 20 – 45 feet tall in deep soils, although it will be smaller in shallow soils. When young it may sucker, causing a multi-trunked tree, but as the tree matures these can fuse together creating a fluted look.

Anaqua needs lots of water to get established, but is very drought tolerant after that. It is available in nurseries specializing in trees. It can easily be started from seeds or by transplanting suckers.