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### *Crataegus calpodendron*

[Synonyms : *Crataegus acanthacolonensis*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *gigantea*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *globosa*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *hispida*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *hispidula*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *microcarpa*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *mollicula*, *Crataegus calpodendron* var. *obesa*, *Crataegus chapmanii*, *Crataegus downingii*, *Crataegus fontanesiana*, *Crataegus globosa*, *Crataegus hispidula*, *Crataegus parviflora*, *Crataegus tomentosa*, *Crataegus uniflora*, *Mespilus calpodendron*]

**BLACK THORN** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to north-eastern North America it has small white flowers.

It is also known as Pear hawthorn, Pear thorn, Red haw, Urn-shaped hawthorn, and Urn-tree haw.

When mature the smell of the flowers becomes less attractive and more like that of fetid decaying fish – and it is this that attracts the pollinating small, gnat-like flies.

*Calpodendron* is derived from Greek *calpi-* (bucket, urn, pitcher, ewer) and *dendro-* (tree) components with reference to the urn-shaped fruit.

For the North American Meskwaki Indians black thorn meant food and medicine. They ate the small orange-red fruit both raw and cooked.

The Meskwaki took a twig infusion to ease some pains, a root bark infusion provided a stimulant and the fruit were prescribed to treat some bladder disorders.

This hard tough wood has been used to make mallets and tool handles.

It is occasionally cultivated in North America and Europe as an ornamental plant.

Locally, like those of other close relatives, the succulent sweet-tasting fruit have been made into pies and preserves.

The fruit are eaten by birds.