

# TREES



## ORIGIN AND ECOLOGY

**Famille :** Hamamelidaceae

**Origine :** Iran

**Habitat :** The Persian ironwood is found in the Hyrcanian mountain forests of Iran bordering the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. These warm temperate forests resemble those found in France, with other species of oaks and beeches.

Perennial plant with deciduous foliage (loses its leaves).



## THE PLANT'S CHALLENGE

Several million years ago, the Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) lived across much of Europe. But after the glacial periods, it disappeared from Europe, unlike oaks and beeches. Today, grazing is reducing the forests this tree needs to survive. As a result, it is considered a threatened species and appears on the IUCN Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

# *Parrotia persica* (DC.) C.A. Mey. Persian ironwood

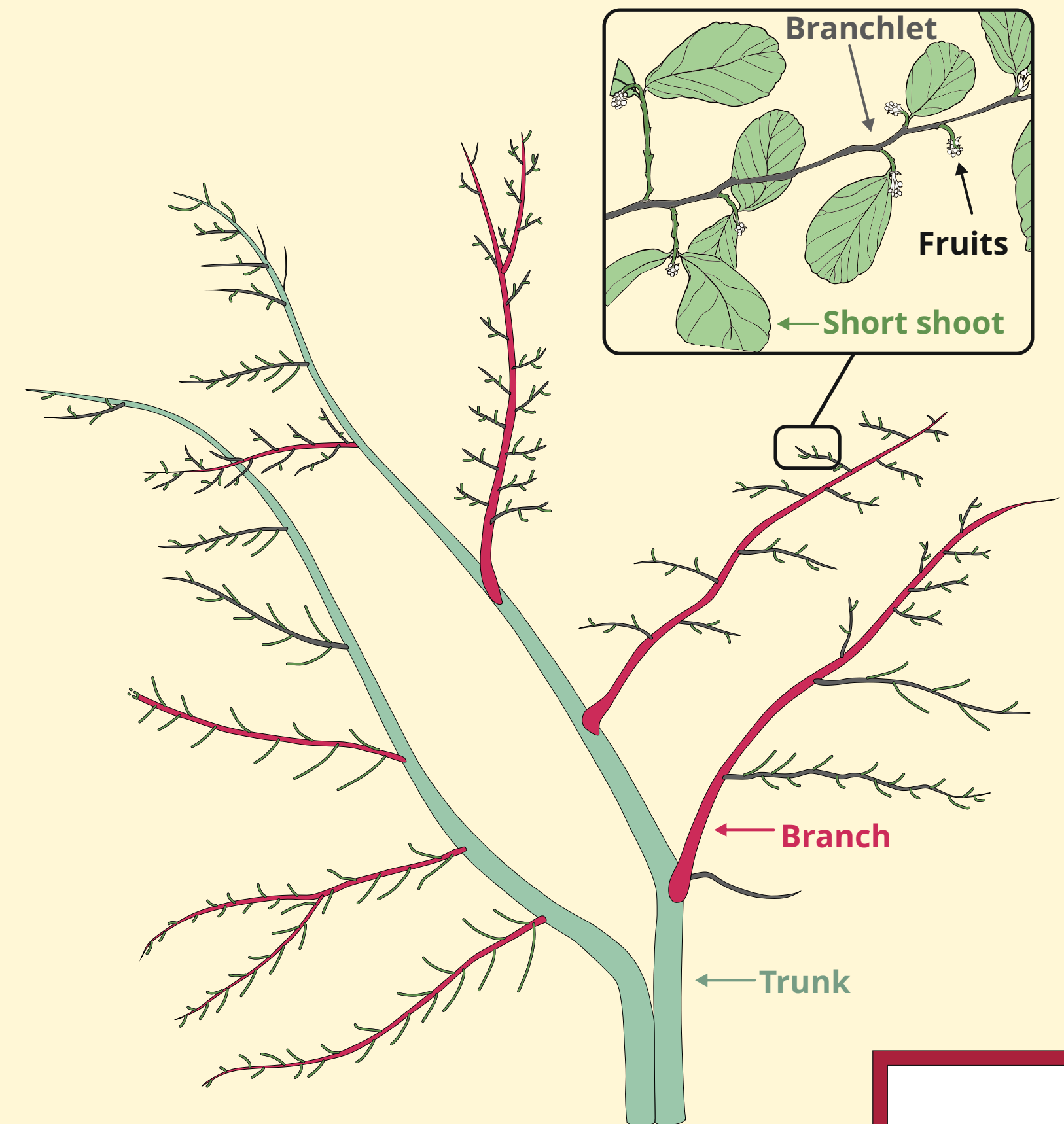
## THE ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION

**Plant architecture allows plants to cope with the challenges of their environment.**

In *Parrotia persica*, the shape of the plant helps it capture light effectively beneath the trees.

The trunk is short and sturdy, serving to support the plant. The large branches, long and nearly horizontal, spread out to form a wide crown of leaves. The smaller branches fill the space and bear leaves close together, which fall and regrow each year. Thanks to this organisation, the plant captures light well in the understory.

However, it is highly dependent on forests as it is better adapted to shade. It is therefore important to protect these forests in Iran so that it can continue to thrive.



Work completed by students of the Bachelor's Program in Biology-Ecology at the University of Montpellier (Class of 2024-2025)

To learn more, read the students' research report!

