

fresh water at the head of this inlet took place in Miocene time. From the Miocene firth of the Rhine, a sea-strait ran eastward, between the base of the Alps and the line of the Danube, filling up the broad basin of Vienna, sending thence an arm northward through Moravia, and spreading far and wide among the islands of southeastern Europe, over the regions where now the Black Sea and Caspian basins remain as the last relics of this Tertiary extension of the ocean across

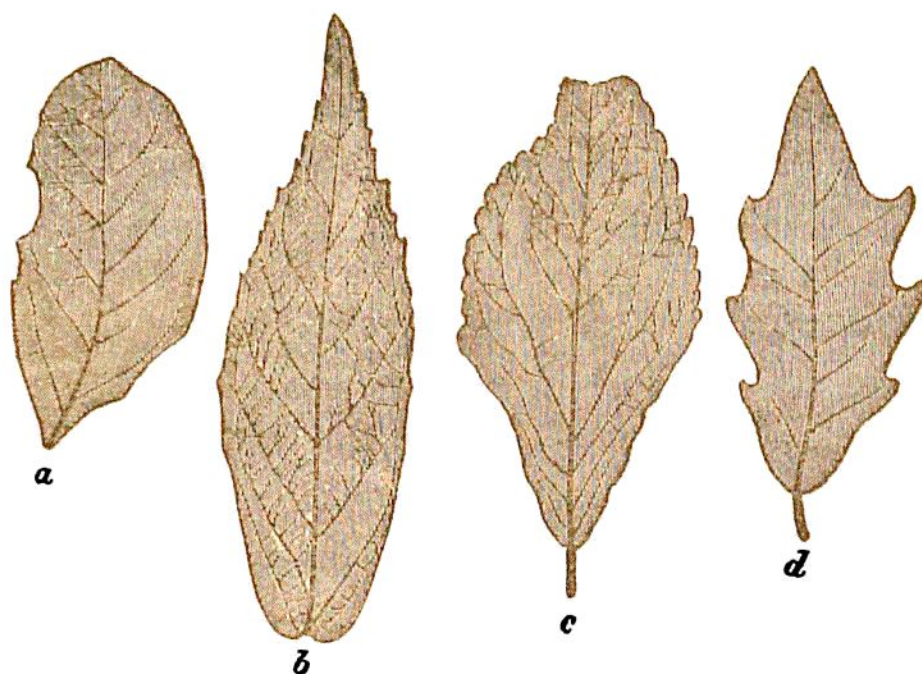


Fig. 437.—Miocene Plants.

*a*, *Magnolia Inglefieldi* ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ); *b*, *Rhus Meriani* (nat. size).  
*c*, *Ficus decandolleana* ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ); *d*, *Quercus ilicoides* ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ).

southern Europe. The Mediterranean also still presented a far larger area than it now possesses, for it covered much of the present lowlands and foothills along its northern border, and some of its important islands had not yet appeared or had not acquired their present dimensions.

Among the revolutions of the time not the least important in European geography was the continued uprise of the Alps by which the Eocene strata had been so convoluted and overthrown. These disturbances still went on in a diminished degree in Miocene time. One of their results