



96 Paxton Chadwick (1903-61)

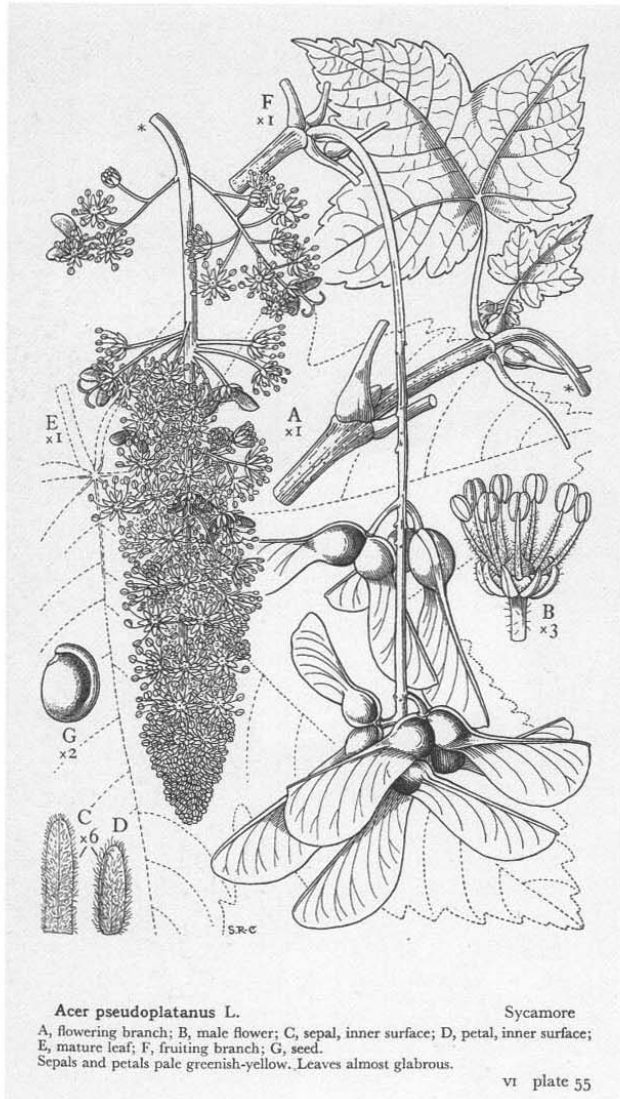
Flowers of the marsh

Study for Plate 1 for No.11 in the *Pantoscope Series*, Cassell, 1960

Watercolour and crayon



Using a panoramic format, Chadwick shows approximately sixteen species common to marsh landscapes. The habit of growth and the flowering phase are distinctly characterized, but the plate represents a falsification of nature on two levels: it is unlikely that all these plants would be found together on a single site; nor do they all flower at the same time. However, when these conventions are understood, it is an effective and economic mode of picturing plants for a simple field guide.



97 Stella Ross-Craig (b.1906)
 Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
 Plate 55, Volume VI of *Drawings of British Plants*, 1948-73

Line-block

This plate exemplifies Ross-Craig's compositional skills. She manages to show the flowering branch (A), fruiting branch (F) and mature leaf (E) life-size within the confines of her 15 x 25.4 cm page, as well as incorporating magnified details of flower and seed, without confusion or distortion. In order to achieve this she uses certain standard conventions from the graphic syntax of botanical illustration: the mature leaf is shown as a broken outline behind the other more fully-realized features, and the flowering branch is cut and presented in two parts, with the point at which they should join indicated by matching asterisks. Ross-Craig works to the very edges of her rectangular plate without allowing the composition to appear constrained or dictated by the format.