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Pine trees are evergreen, coniferous resinous trees (or, rarely, shrubs) growing 3–80 metres (10–260 feet) tall, with the majority of species reaching 15–45 m (50–150 ft) tall.^[4] The smallest are Siberian dwarf pine and Potosi pinyon, and the tallest is an 81.8 m (268 ft) tall ponderosa pine located in southern Oregon's Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.^[4]

The spiral growth of branches, needles, and cones scales may be arranged in Fibonacci number ratios.^{[8][9]} The new spring shoots are sometimes called "candles"; they are covered in brown or whitish bud scales and point upward at first, then later turn green and spread outward. These "candles" offer foresters a means to evaluate fertility of the soil and vigour of the trees.

<div>Pine</div> <div>Temporal range:</div>	
	
Korean red pine (<i>Pinus densiflora</i>), North Korea	
<div>Scientific classification</div> <div></div>	
Kingdom:	<u>Plantae</u>
Clade:	<u>Tracheophytes</u>
Clade:	<u>Gymnosperms</u>
Division:	<u>Pinophyta</u>
Class:	<u>Pinopsida</u>
Order:	<u>Pinales</u>
Family:	<u>Pinaceae</u>
Subfamily:	<u>Pinoideae</u>
Genus:	<u><i>Pinus</i></u> <u>L.</u>
<div>Type species</div>	
<u><i>Pinus sylvestris</i></u> <u>L.</u>	
<div>Subgenera</div>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subgenus <u><i>Strobus</i></u> Subgenus <u><i>Pinus</i></u> 	
See List of <i>Pinus</i> species for complete taxonomy to species level. See list of pines by region for list of species by geographic distribution.	
	
Range of <i>Pinus</i>	



Roots of an old pine in Ystad (2020)



Ancient *Pinus longaeva*, California, US



A large eastern white pine (*P. strobus*) in Southern Ontario, Canada



A Khasi pine in Benguet, Philippines



Crooked Forest in Nowe Czarnewo, Poland



Pine forest in Vagamon, southern Western Ghats, Kerala (India)



Huangshan pine (*Pinus hwangshanensis*) , Anhui, China



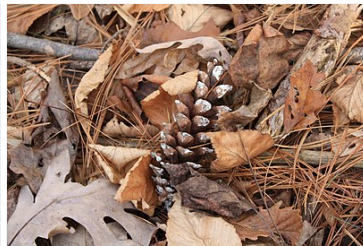
Illustration of needles, cones, and seeds of Scots pine (*P. sylvestris*)



Flowering young pine cones



A growing female cone of a Scots pine on a mountain in Perry County, Pennsylvania



A fully grown and freshly fallen female pine cone (*P. strobus*)



Seeds of the Korean pine (*P. koraiensis*)



A controlled burn in a European black pine (*P. nigra*) woodland, Portugal

Bark

The bark of most pines is thick and scaly, but some species have thin, flaky bark.^[10] The branches are produced in regular "pseudo whorls", actually a very tight spiral but appearing like a ring of branches arising from the same point. Many pines are uninodal, producing just one such whorl of branches each year, from buds at the tip of the year's new shoot, but others are multinodal, producing two or more whorls of branches per year.

Foliage

Pines have four types of leaf:

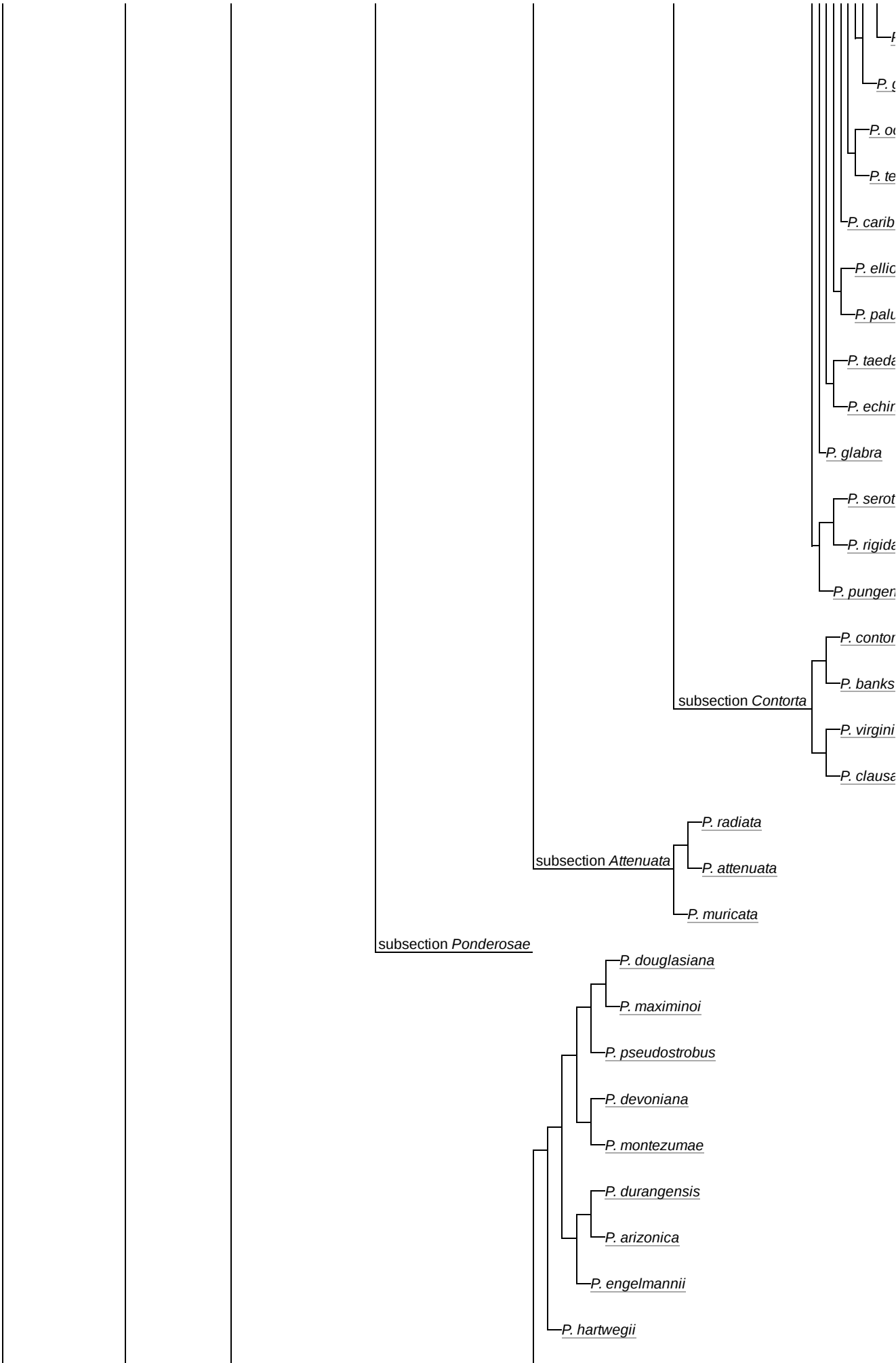
- Seed leaves (cotyledons) on seedlings are borne in a whorl of 4–24.
- Juvenile leaves, which follow immediately on seedlings and young plants, are 2–6 centimetres ($\frac{3}{4}$ – $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches) long, single, green or often blue-green, and arranged spirally on the shoot. These are produced for six months to five years, rarely longer.
- Scale leaves, similar to bud scales, are small, brown and not photosynthetic, and arranged spirally like the juvenile leaves.
- Needles, the adult leaves, are green (photosynthetic) and bundled in clusters called fascicles. The needles can number from one to seven per fascicle, but generally number from two to five. Each fascicle is produced from a small bud on a dwarf shoot in the axil of a scale leaf. These bud scales often remain on the fascicle as a basal sheath. The needles persist for 1.5–40 years, depending on species. If a shoot's growing tip is damaged (e.g. eaten by an animal), the needle fascicles just below the damage will generate a stem-producing bud, which can then replace the lost growth tip.

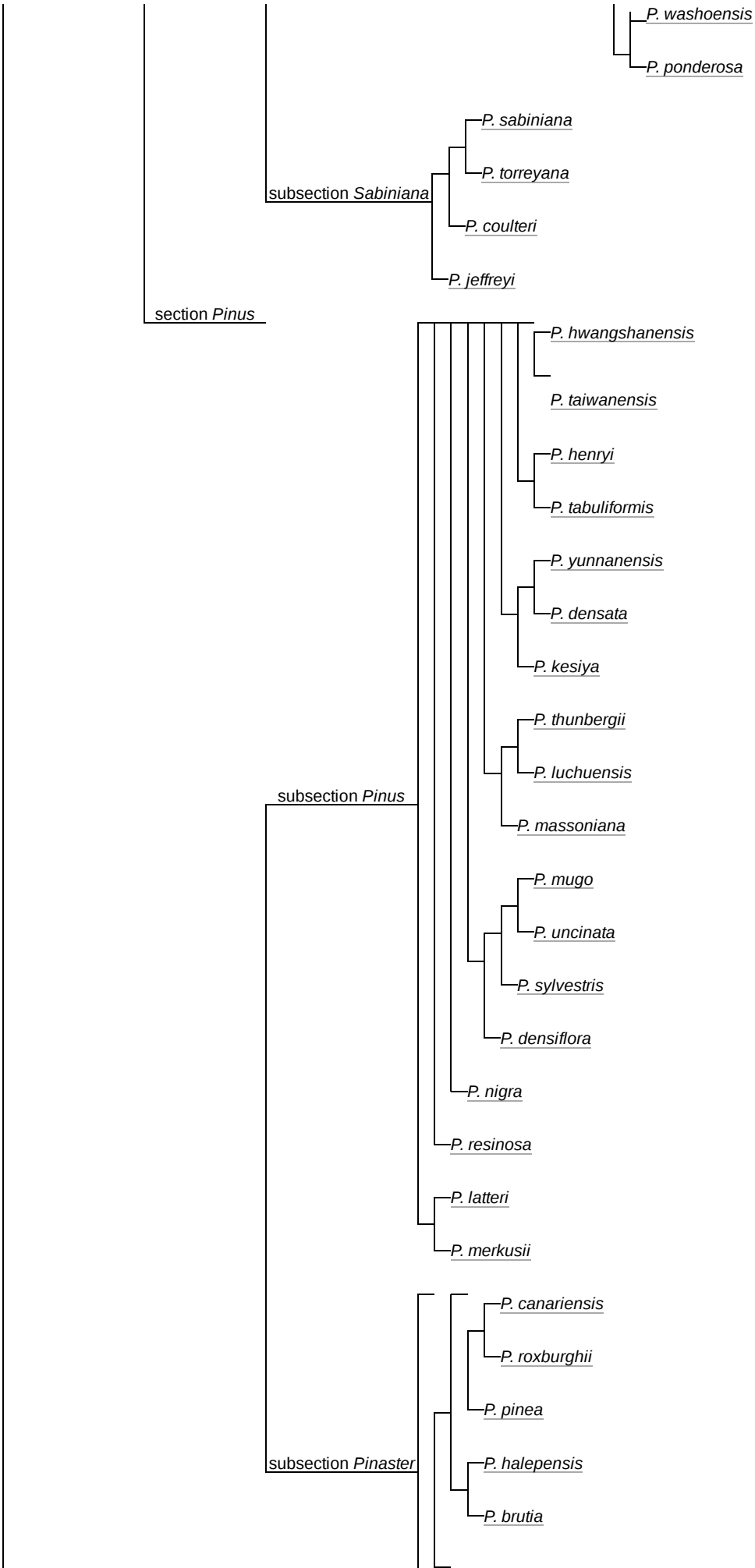


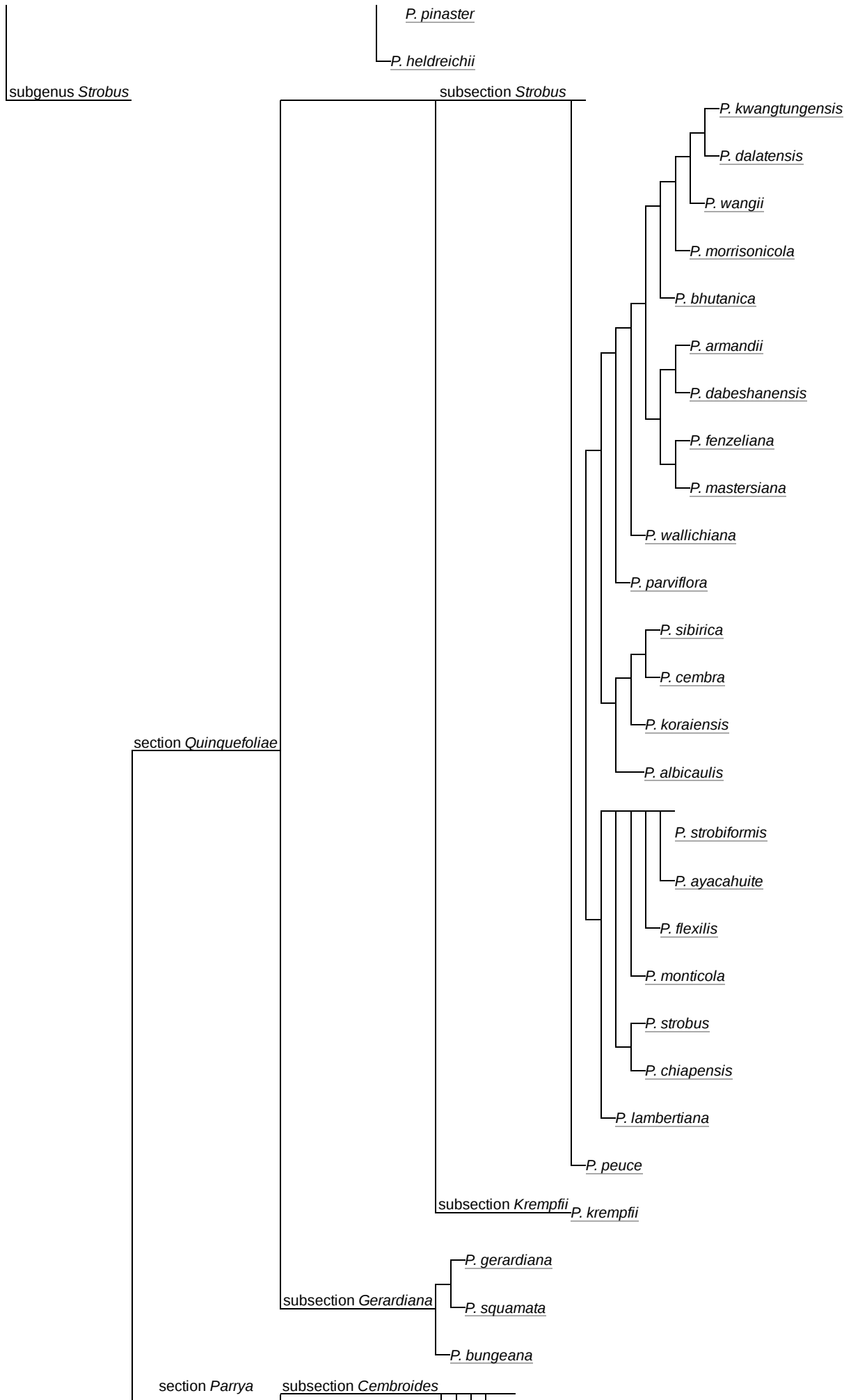
Pinus taeda bark

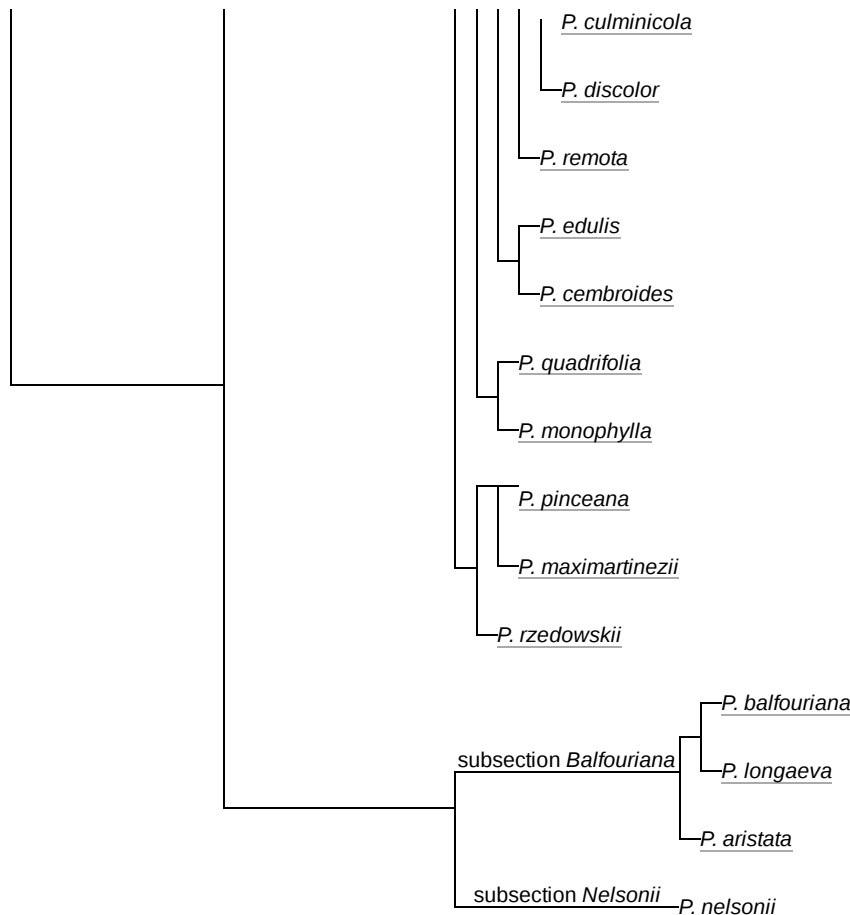
Cones

[illegible]









Distribution and habitat

Pines are native to the Northern Hemisphere, and to a few parts from the tropics to temperate regions in the Southern Hemisphere. Most regions of the Northern Hemisphere host some native species of pines. One species (Sumatran pine) crosses the equator in Sumatra to 2°S. In North America, various species occur in regions at latitudes from as far north as 66°N to as far south as 12°N.

Pines may be found in a very large variety of environments, ranging from semi-arid desert to rainforests, from sea level up to 5,200 m (17,100 ft), from the coldest to the hottest environments on Earth. They often occur in mountainous areas with favorable soils and at least some water.^[22]

Various species have been introduced to temperate and subtropical regions of both hemispheres, where they are grown as timber or cultivated as ornamental plants in parks and gardens. A number of such introduced species have become naturalized, and some species are considered invasive in some areas^[23] and threaten native ecosystems.



Monterey Pine in Sydney, Australia, which were introduced to the region in the late 19th century.

Ecology

Pines grow well in acid soils, some also on calcareous soils; most require good soil drainage, preferring sandy soils, but a few (e.g. lodgepole pine) can tolerate poorly drained wet soils. A few are able to sprout after forest fires (e.g. Canary Island pine). Some species of pines (e.g. bishop pine) need fire to regenerate, and their populations slowly decline under fire suppression regimens.

Pine trees are beneficial to the environment since they can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Although several studies have indicated that after the establishment of pine plantations in grasslands, there is an alteration of carbon pools including a decrease of the soil organic carbon pool.^[24]

Several species are adapted to extreme conditions imposed by elevation and latitude (e.g. Siberian dwarf pine, mountain pine, whitebark pine, and the bristlecone pines). The pinyon pines and a number of others, notably Turkish pine and gray pine, are particularly well adapted to growth in hot, dry semidesert climates.^[25]

Pine pollen may play an important role in the functioning of detrital food webs.^[26] Nutrients from pollen aid detritivores in development, growth, and maturation, and may enable fungi to decompose nutritionally scarce litter.^[26] Pine pollen is also involved in moving plant matter between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.^[26]



Pine beauty moth (*Panolis flammea*) on pine needles

Wildlife

Pine needles serve as food for various Lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) species. Several species of pine are attacked by nematodes, causing pine wilt disease, which can kill some quickly. Some of these Lepidoptera species, many of them moths, specialize in feeding on only one or sometimes several species of pine. Beside that many species of birds and mammals shelter in pine habitat or feed on pine nuts.

The seeds are commonly eaten by birds, such as grouse, crossbills, jays, nuthatches, siskins, and woodpeckers, and by squirrels. Some birds, notably the spotted nutcracker, Clark's nutcracker, and pinyon jay, are of importance in distributing pine seeds to new areas. Pine needles are sometimes eaten by the Symphytan species pine sawfly, and goats.^[27]

Uses



A picture portraying the Forchem tall oil refinery in Rauma, Pine needle baskets turpentine industry Finland



Logging *Pinus ponderosa*, Arizona, US



Pinus sylvestris prepared for Tongue and groove flooring of solid German pine Chinese ink stick



Lumber and construction

Pines are among the most commercially important tree species valued for their timber and wood pulp throughout the world.^{[28][29]} In temperate and tropical regions, they are fast-growing softwoods that grow in relatively dense stands, their acidic decaying needles inhibiting the sprouting of competing hardwoods. Commercial pines are grown in plantations for timber that is denser and therefore more durable than spruce (*Picea*). Pine wood is widely used in high-value carpentry items such as furniture, window frames, panelling, floors, and roofing, and the resin of some species is an important source of turpentine.

Because pine wood has no insect- or decay-resistant qualities after logging, in its untreated state it is generally recommended for indoor construction purposes only (indoor drywall framing, for example). For outside use, pine needs to be treated with copper azole, chromated copper arsenate or other suitable chemical preservative.^[30]

Ornamental uses

Many pine species make attractive ornamental plantings for parks and larger gardens with a variety of dwarf cultivars being suitable for smaller spaces. Pines are also commercially grown and harvested for Christmas trees. Pine cones, the largest and most durable of all conifer cones, are craft favorites. Pine boughs, appreciated especially in wintertime for their pleasant smell and greenery, are popularly cut for decorations.^[31] Pine needles are also used for making decorative articles such as baskets, trays, pots, etc., and during the U.S. Civil War, the needles of the longleaf pine "Georgia pine" were widely employed in this.^[32] This originally Native American skill is now being replicated across the world. Pine needle handicrafts are made in the US, Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua, and India. Pine needles are also versatile and have been used by Latvian designer Tamara Orjola to create different biodegradable products including paper, furniture, textiles and dye.^[33]



"Pine Clouds", 1903 painting on fan by Wu Ku-hsiang

Farming

When grown for sawing timber, pine plantations can be harvested after 25 years, with some stands being allowed to grow up to 50 (as the wood value increases more quickly as the trees age). Imperfect trees (such as those with bent trunks or forks, smaller trees, or diseased trees) are removed in a "thinning" operation every 5–10 years. Thinning allows the best trees to grow much faster, because it prevents weaker trees from competing for sunlight, water, and nutrients. Young trees removed during thinning are used for pulpwood or are left in the forest, while most older ones are good enough for saw timber.^[34]

A 30-year-old commercial pine tree grown in good conditions in Arkansas will be about 0.3 m (1 ft) in diameter and about 20 m (66 ft) high. After 50 years, the same tree will be about 0.5 m (1½ ft) in diameter and 25 m (82 ft) high, and its wood will be worth about seven times as much as the 30-year-old tree. This however depends on the region, species and silvicultural techniques. In New Zealand, a plantation's maximum value is reached after around 28 years with height being as high as 30 m (98 ft) and diameter 0.5 m (1½ ft), with maximum wood production after around 35 years (again depending on factors such as site, stocking and genetics). Trees are normally planted 3–4 m apart, or about 1,000 per hectare (100,000 per square kilometre).^{[35][36][37][38]}

Food and nutrients

The seeds (pine nuts) are generally edible; the young male cones can be cooked and eaten, as can the bark of young twigs.^[39] Some species have large pine nuts, which are harvested and sold for cooking and baking. They are an essential ingredient of *pesto alla genovese*.

The soft, moist, white inner bark (**cambium**) beneath the woody outer bark is edible and very high in vitamins **A** and **C**.^[3] It can be eaten raw in slices as a snack or dried and ground up into a powder for use as an *ersatz* flour or thickener in stews, soups, and other foods, such as *bark bread*.^[40] Adirondack Indians got their name from the Mohawk Indian word *atirú:taks*, meaning "tree eaters".^[40]

A *tea* is made by steeping young, green pine needles in boiling water (known as *tallstrunt* in Sweden).^[40] In eastern Asia, pine and other conifers are accepted among consumers as a beverage product, and used in teas, as well as wine.^[41] In Greece, the wine *retsina* is flavoured with Aleppo pine resin.

Pine needles from *Pinus densiflora* were found to contain 30.54 milligram/gram of *proanthocyanidins* when extracted with hot water.^[42] Comparative to ethanol extraction resulting in 30.11 mg/g, simply extracting in hot water is preferable.

In traditional Chinese medicine, *pine resin* is used for burns, wounds and dermal complaints.^[43]

Culture

Pines have been a frequently mentioned tree throughout history, including in literature, paintings and other art, and in religious texts.

Literature

Writers of various nationalities and ethnicities have written of pines. Among them, John Muir,^[44] Dora Sigerson Shorter,^[45] Eugene Field,^[46] Bai Juyi,^[47] Theodore Winthrop,^[48] and Rev. George Allan D.D.^[49]

Art



A falling pine pictured in the coat of arms of Myrskylä, a small town in Finland



Chosui Yabu's inscribed woodcut of *Three Auspicious Friends* (The Three Friends of Winter) in the Brooklyn Museum (c. 1860)



Under the Pines, Evening, Claude Monet (1888) (Philadelphia Museum of Art)



The West Wind (1917), Canadian painter Tom Thomson's iconic portrait of red pines in Algonquin Park, Ontario

Pines are often featured in art, whether painting and *fine art*,^[50] drawing,^[51] photography, or *folk art*.

Religious texts

Pine trees, as well as other conifers, are mentioned in some verses of the Bible, depending on the translation. In the Book of Nehemiah 8:15, the King James Version gives the following translation:^[52]

"And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and *pine branches* [emphasis added], and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make *booths* (<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Booth>), as it is written."

However, the term here in Hebrew (עץ שמן) means "oil tree" and it is not clear what kind of tree is meant. Pines are also mentioned in some translations of Isaiah 60:13, such as the King James:

"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious."

Again, it is not clear what tree is meant (תדהר in Hebrew), and other translations use "pine" for the word translated as "box" by the King James (תאשור in Hebrew).

Some botanical authorities believe that the Hebrew word "ברוש" (bōrōsh), which is used many times in the Bible, designates *P. halepensis*, or in Hosea 14:8^[53] which refers to fruit, *Pinus pinea*, the stone pine.^[54] The word used in modern Hebrew for pine is "ן" (oren), which occurs only in Isaiah 44:14,^[55] but two manuscripts have "אר" (cedar), a much more common word.^[56]

Chinese culture

The pine is a motif in Chinese art and literature, which sometimes combines painting and poetry in the same work. Some of the main symbolic attributes of pines in Chinese art and literature are longevity and steadfastness: the pine retains its green needles through all the seasons. Sometimes the pine and cypress are paired. At other times the pine, plum, and bamboo are considered as the "Three Friends of Winter".^[57] Many Chinese art works and/or literature (some involving pines) have been done using paper, brush, and Chinese ink: interestingly enough, one of the main ingredients for Chinese ink has been pine soot.

See also

- El Pino (The Pine Tree)
- Pine barrens
- Pine-cypress forest
- Pine Tree Flag
- Tree of Peace

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External links

- 40 Species of Pine Trees You Can Grow (<https://www.thespruce.com/pine-trees-from-around-the-world-3269718>) by The Spruce
- Jepson eFlora (http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_keys.php?key=10029), The Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley, covers Californian species
- Pinus in Flora of North America (http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=125519)
- Pinus in the USDA Plants Database (<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=PINUS>)

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