

# **Divisio of Gymnosperms.**

**General characteristics,  
biology of reproduction.**

# Plan

## **Seed plants.**

- 1.The emergence of the seed and its biological significance.**
- 2.Peculiarities of the development cycle of seed plants.**

## **The Divisio of Gymnosperms.**

- 3. General characteristics of Gymnosperms.**
- 4. Life cycle of Gymnosperms using the example of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)**
- 5. Classification of Gymnosperms. Biodiversity of Gymnosperms**
- 6. Importance in medicine and national economy.**

# Seed plants (Spermatophytes)

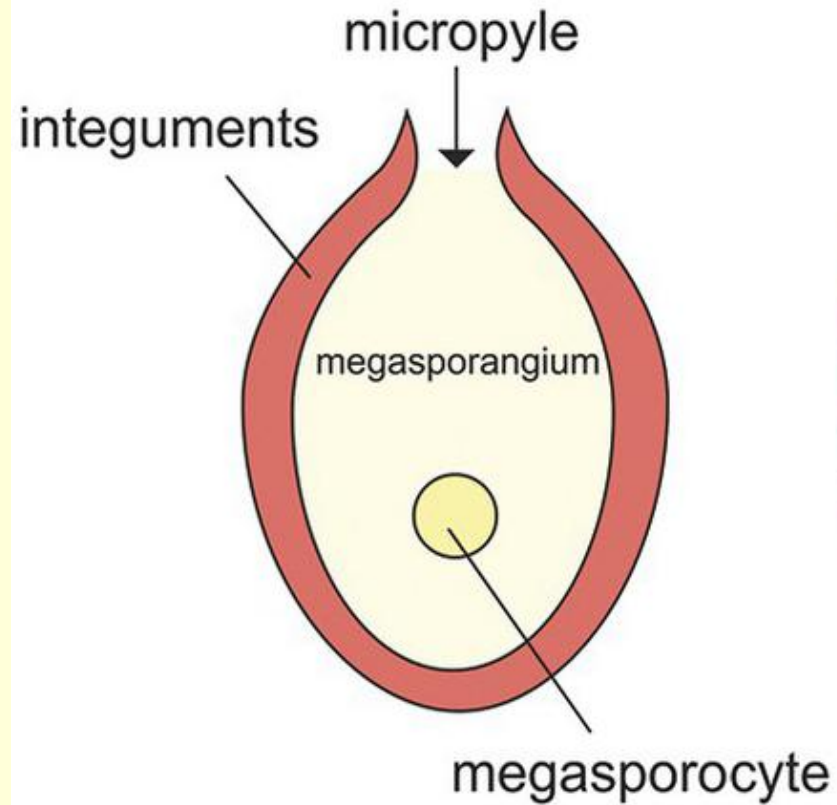


Seed plants (or spermatophytes) are referred to the subkingdom of higher plants. Currently, they dominate in the vegetation cover of the our planet. This group includes two divisions, **the Gymnosperms** and **the Angiosperms**.

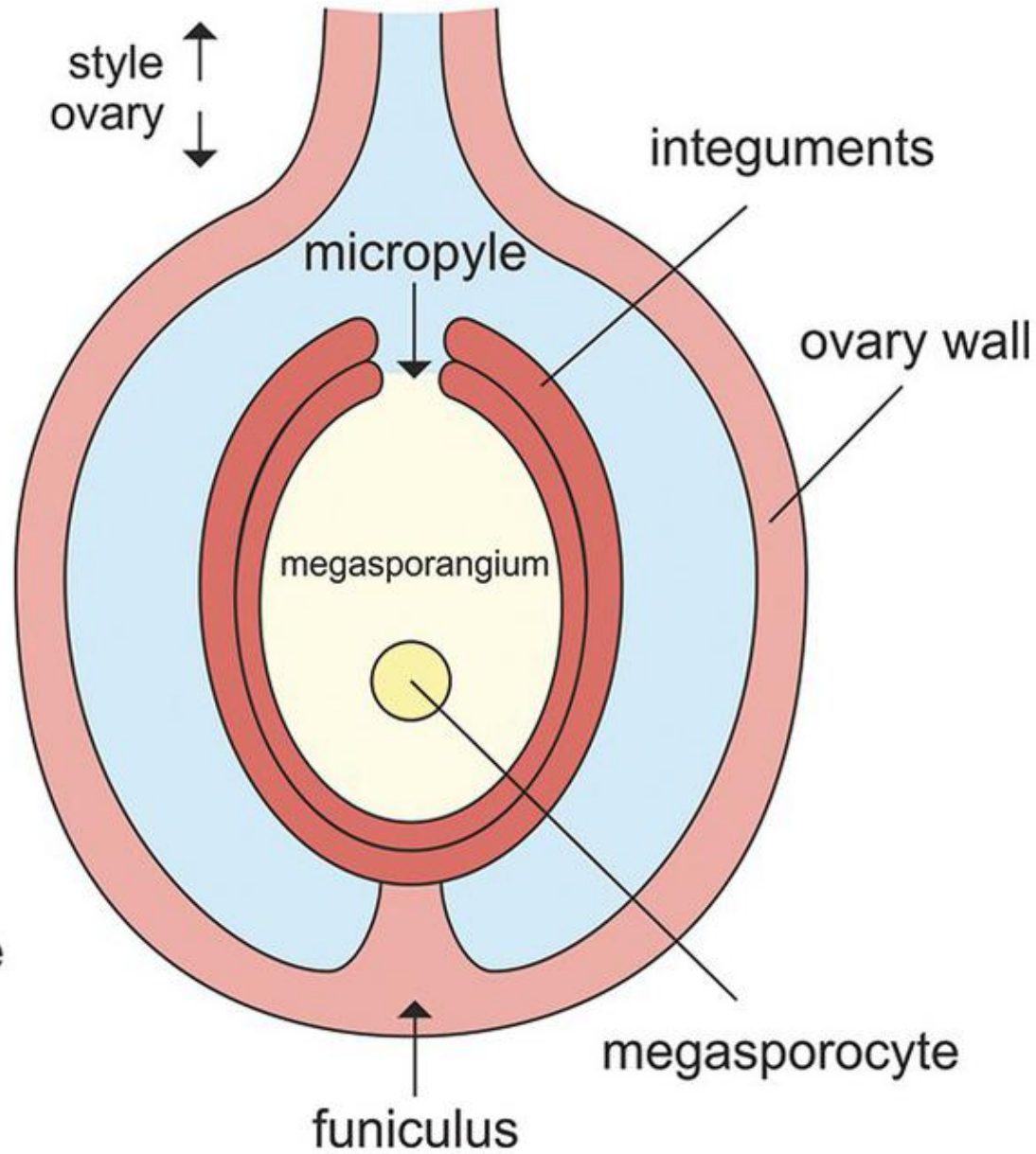
They are distinguished from all other higher plants by the presence of a seed. The appearance of the seed is a major aromorphosis and probably one of the factors that determined the dominance of seed plants in the modern flora of the Earth. The reason for this is simple - the seed promotes survival.



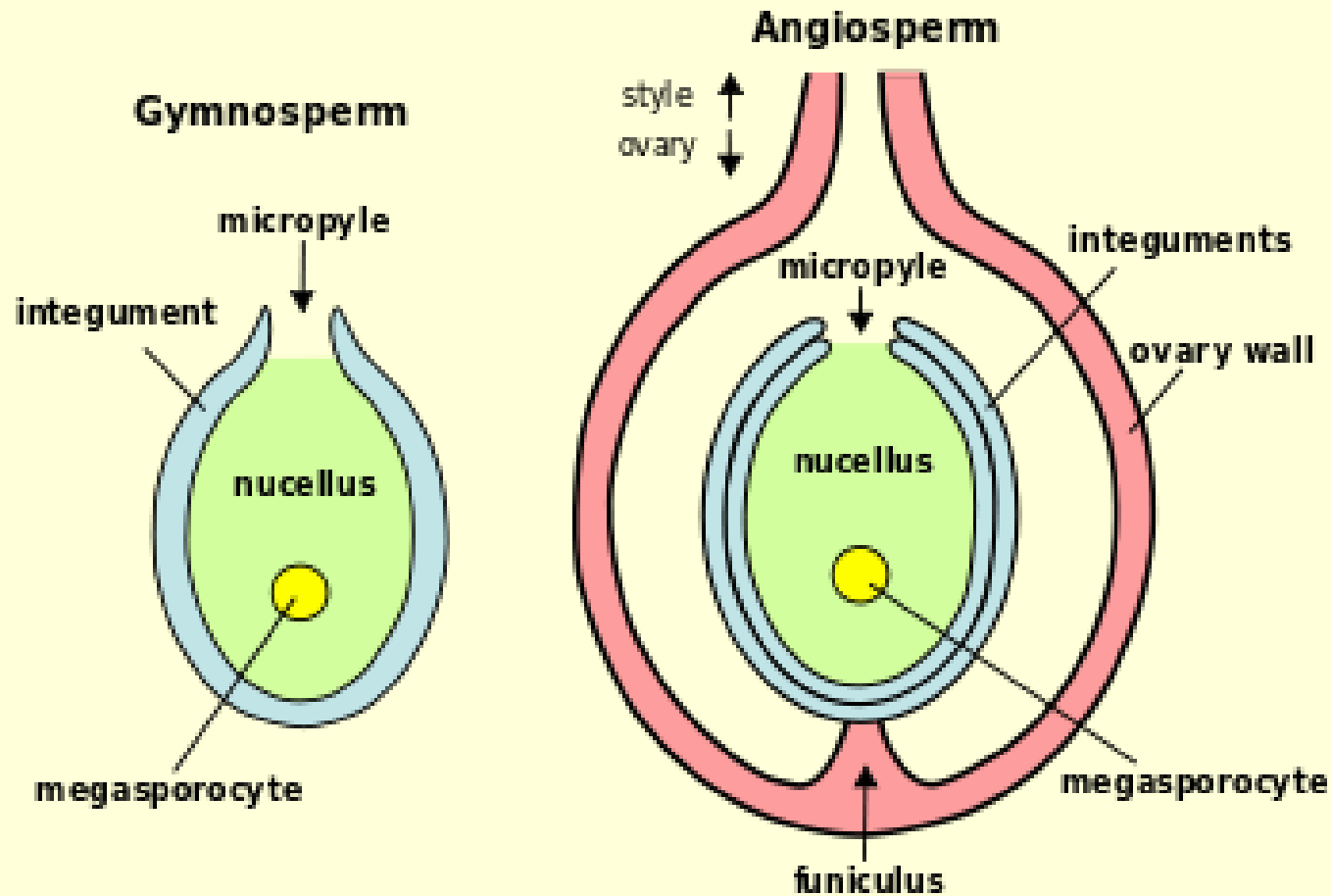
**a) Gymnosperms**



**b) Angiosperms**



The megasporangium of seminal plants is fleshy and is called the nucellus. In seed plants, it is covered with one or two additional layers of tissue - integuments.



Ovulus of seeds plants

- The sexual process in seed plants is not dependent on the moist environment and does not require dripping-liquid water.
- Megagametophytes do not leave the megaspore and megasporangia shells and are more reliably protected from adverse environmental influences than in spore plants.
- The forming embryo is also reliably protected by megasporangium and megagametophyte shells and can use nutrients not only of the gametophyte, but also of the adult sporophyte.
- After a seed is formed, it can remain dormant for a long time without losing its viability.
- When the seed germinates, the embryo (young sporophyte) lives for some time using the reserve of nutrients accumulated in the seed, and this allows it to depend less on the nutrient properties of the substrate during the first stage of life. All this indicates the great adaptability of seed plants to the conditions of existence.

The development of the female gametophyte, fertilization, and the initial stages of sporophyte (embryo) development take place inside the ovule and the seed.

Unlike spore plants, the unit of reproduction and propagation in the seed plants is not a spore but a seed.



# The Division of Gymnosperms (Pinophyta or Gymnospermae)







The name of the division suggests a general peculiarity in the structure of Gymnosperms: ovules and seeds are located openly on the surface of sporophylls or similar structures (i.e. "naked").

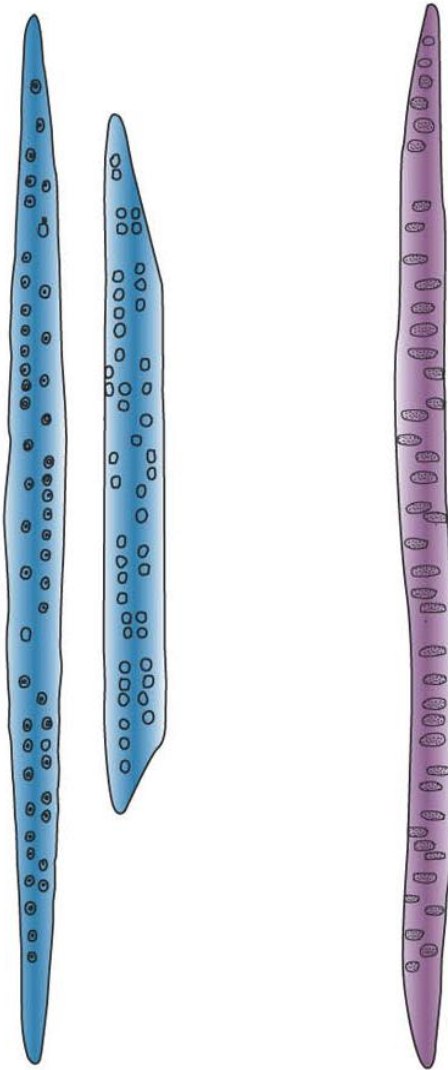
Most Gymnosperms have micro- and megasporophylls aggregated into strobils, which are collections of sporophylls on the axis isolated from the vegetative part of the shoot.

Strobils with megasporophylls are called megastrobils. Those with microsporophylls are called microstrobils. In other words, a strobilus is a spore-bearing shoot - a stem with spore-bearing leaves (sporophylls).

The structure of mega- and microstrobils is different and depends on the systematic belonging of the plant.

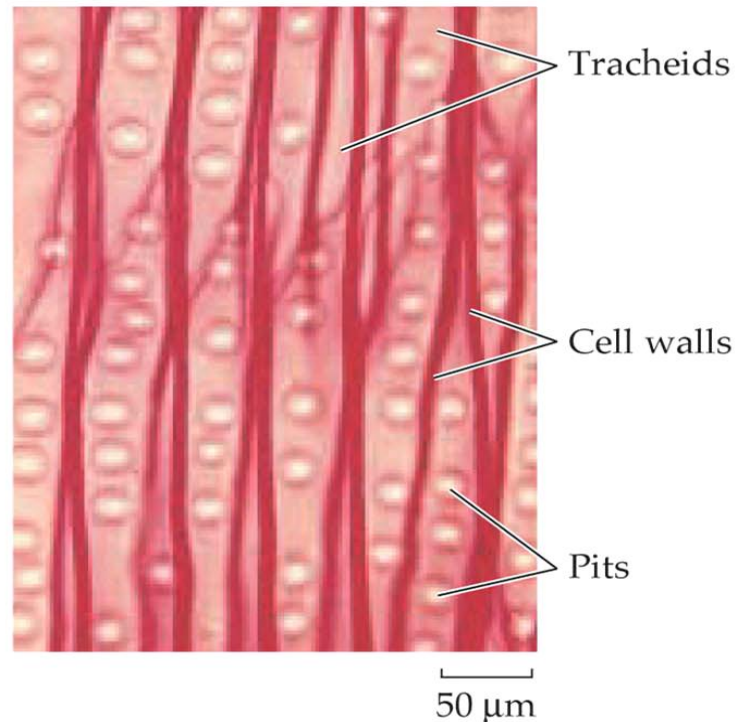
Tracheids

Sieve cell

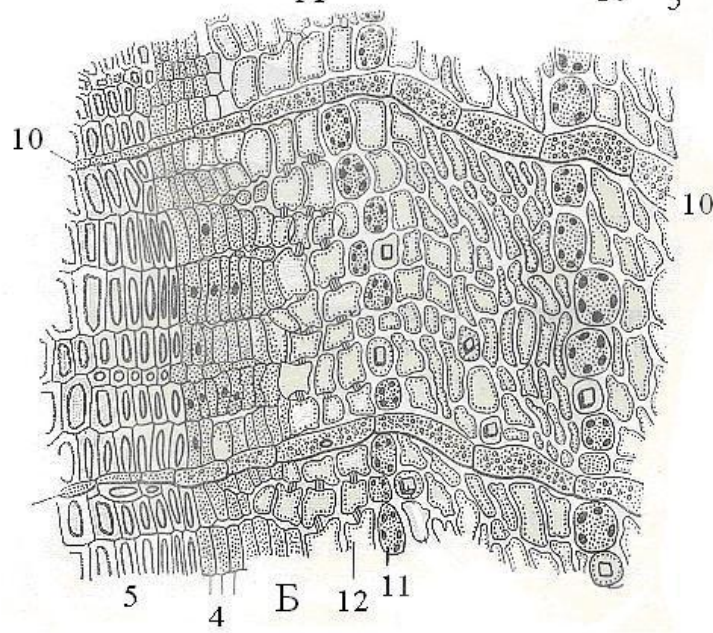
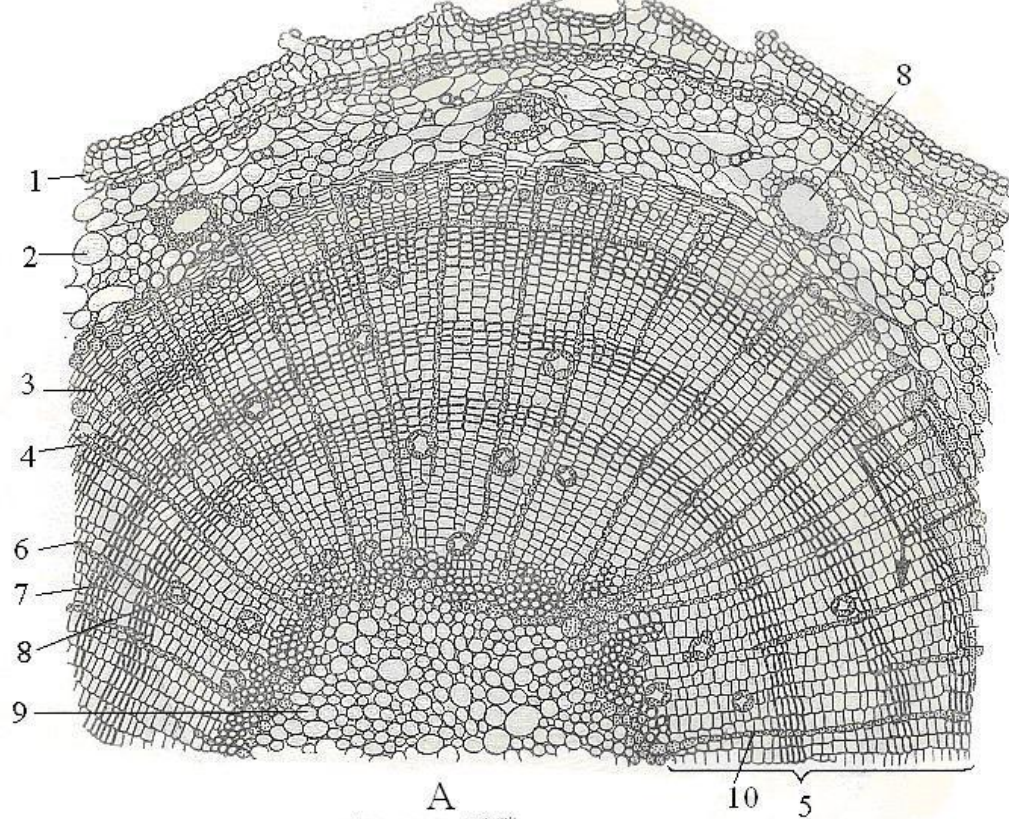


LIFE: THE SCIENCE OF BIOLOGY, Seventh Edition, Figure 35.10 Ev

- The anatomical structure of gymnosperms is characterized by secondary growth in thickness due to cambium activity. The primary cortex consists of a homogeneous parenchyma. Mechanical tissues are absent. The phloem consists of sieve cells (without companion cells), the xylem only of tracheids. Resin passages are often (but far from always) present in the bark and wood.







## Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

### stem in cross section: A -

part of the cross section; B - phloem and cambium, with adjacent xylem tracheids.

1 - periderm, 2 - primary cortex parenchyma, 3 - phloem, 4 - cambium, 5 - xylem, 6 - spring tracheids, 7 - autumn tracheids, 8 - resin passage, 9 - pith, 10 - pith ray, 11 - bast parenchyma, 12 - sieve tube.





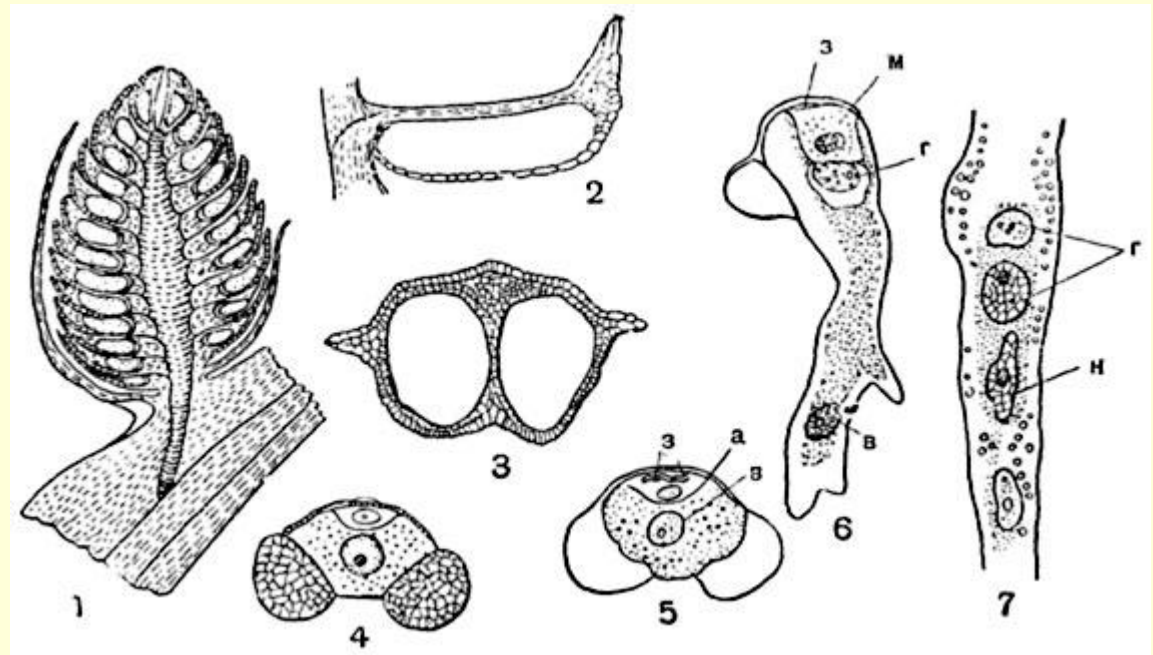
**Pinus sylvestris**





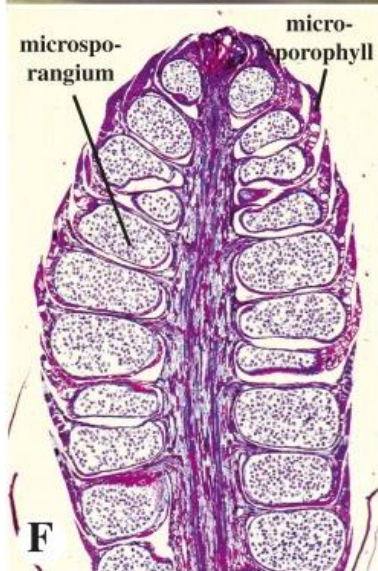
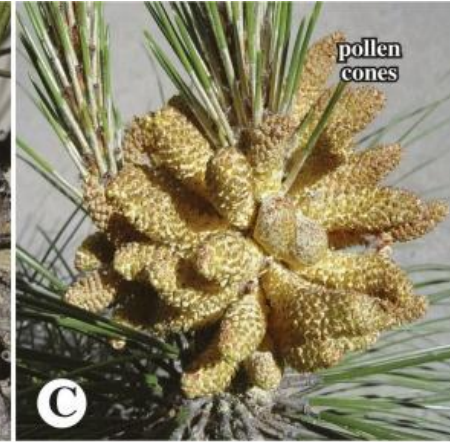
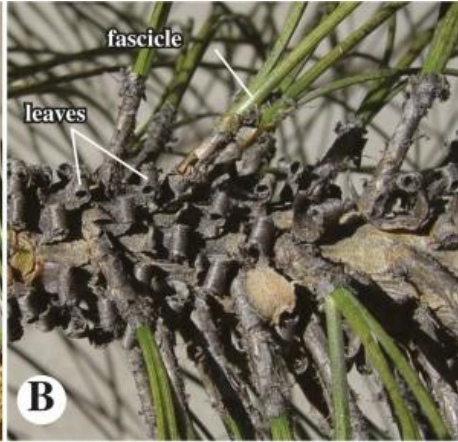




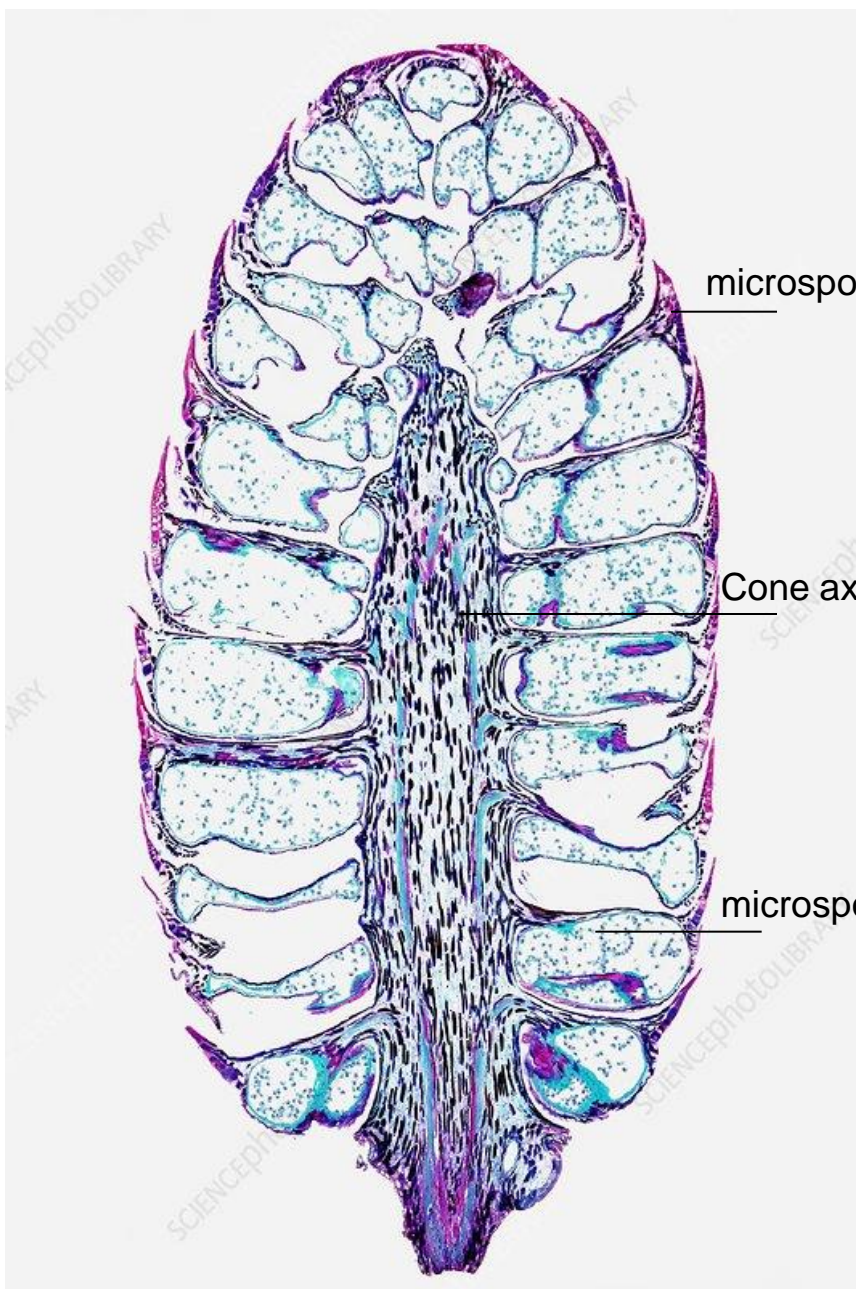


1 - longitudinal section of male cone; 2 and 3 - longitudinal (2) and transverse (3) sections of microsporophyll (contents of microsporangia not shown); 4 - antheridium; 5 and 6 - sprouting of antheridium; 7 - end of pollen tube (in spruce): 3 - rests of bud; a - antheridial cell; б - vegetative nucleus of pollen tube; н - antheridial pedicle cell (in Fig. 7 - its nucleus); з - generative cell (sperm cells in Fig. 7).





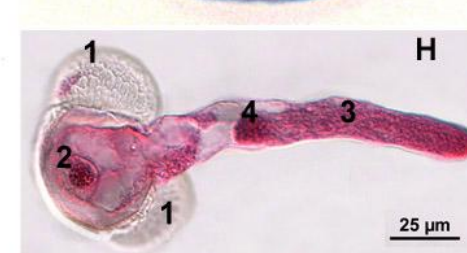
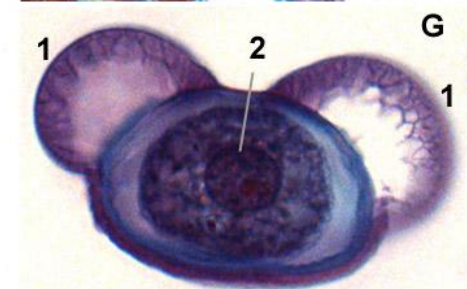
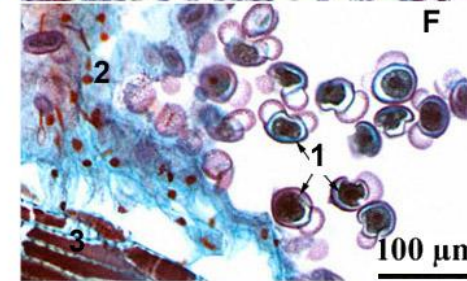
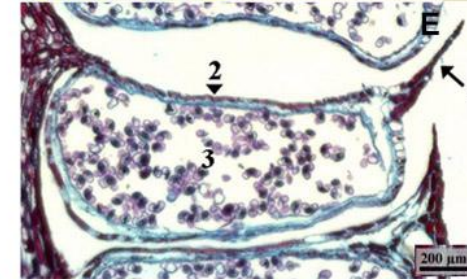
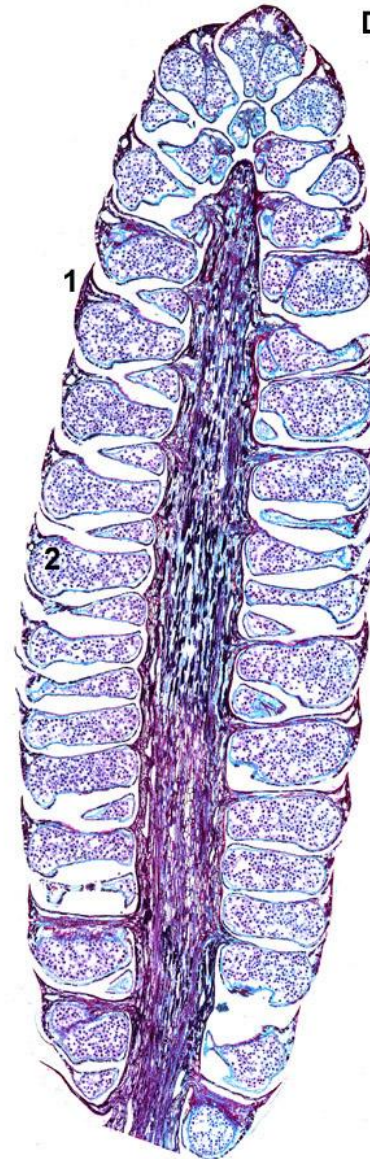




microsporophyll

Cone axis

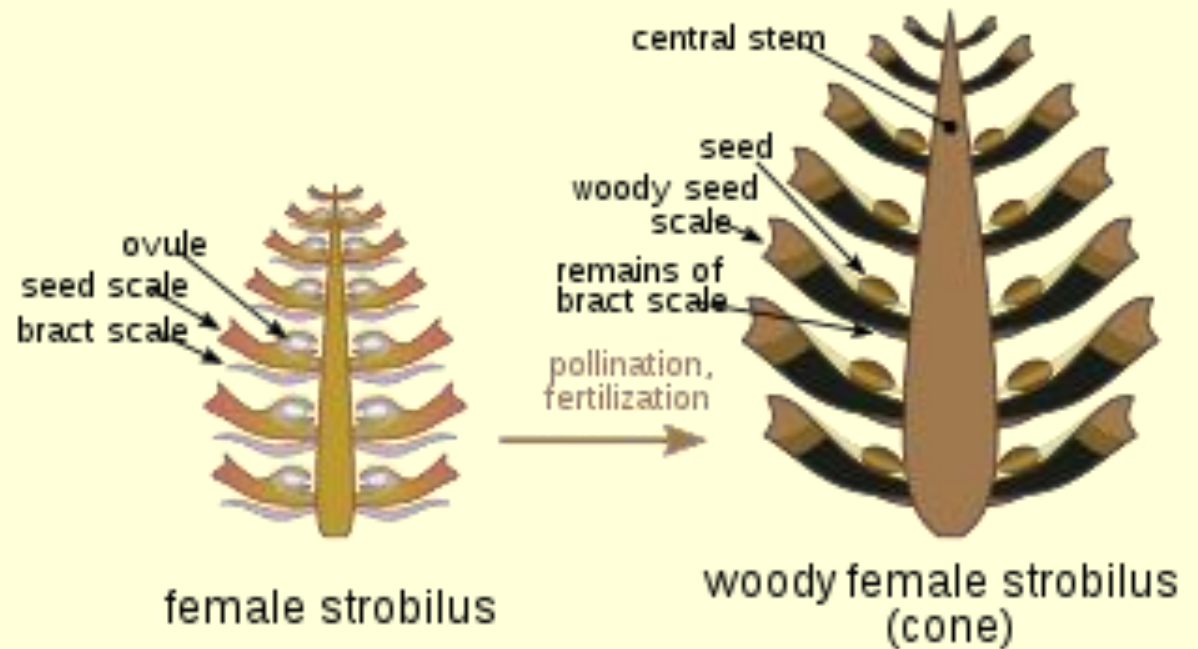
microsporangia

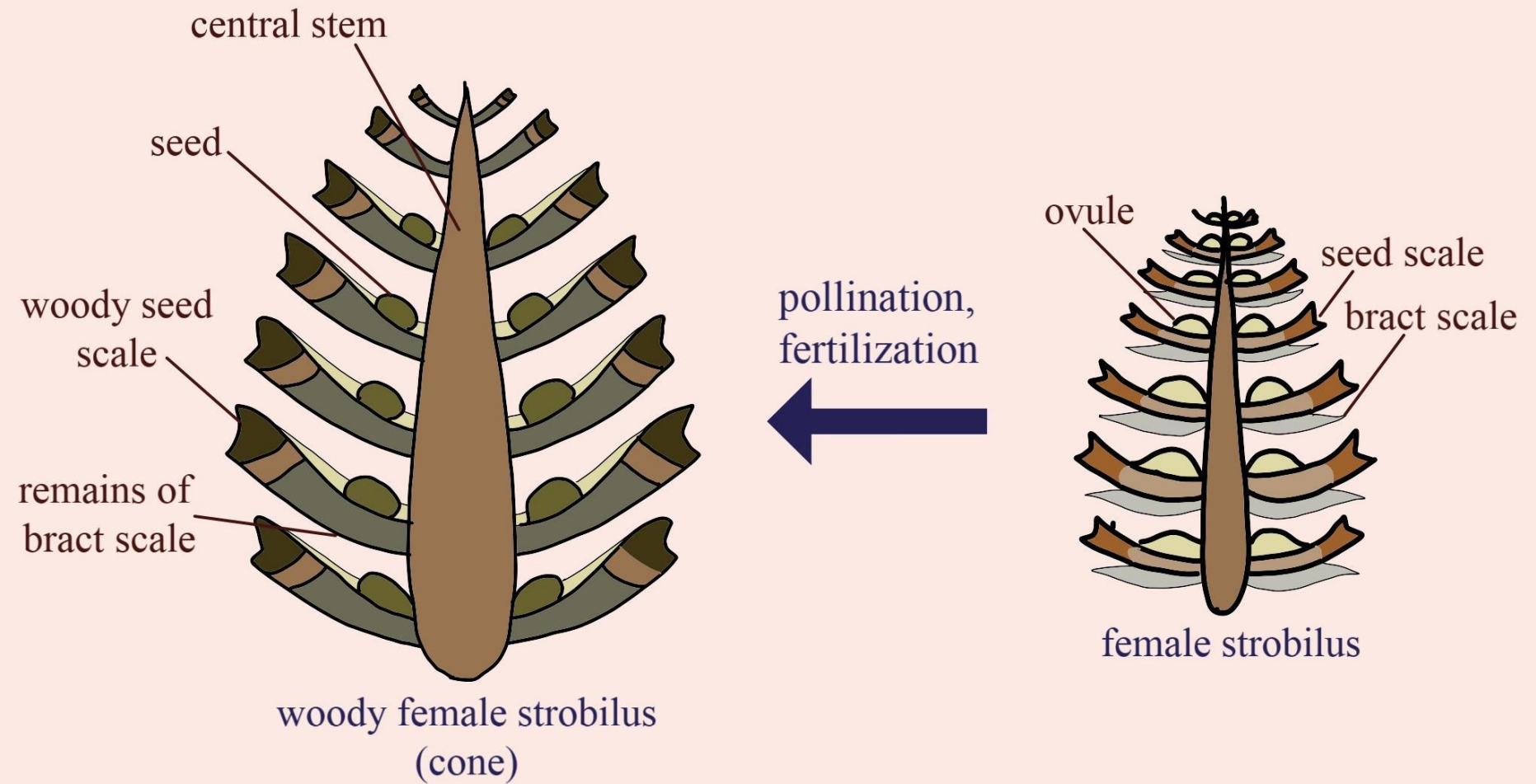


Microstrobils (pollen cone) of pine through microscope



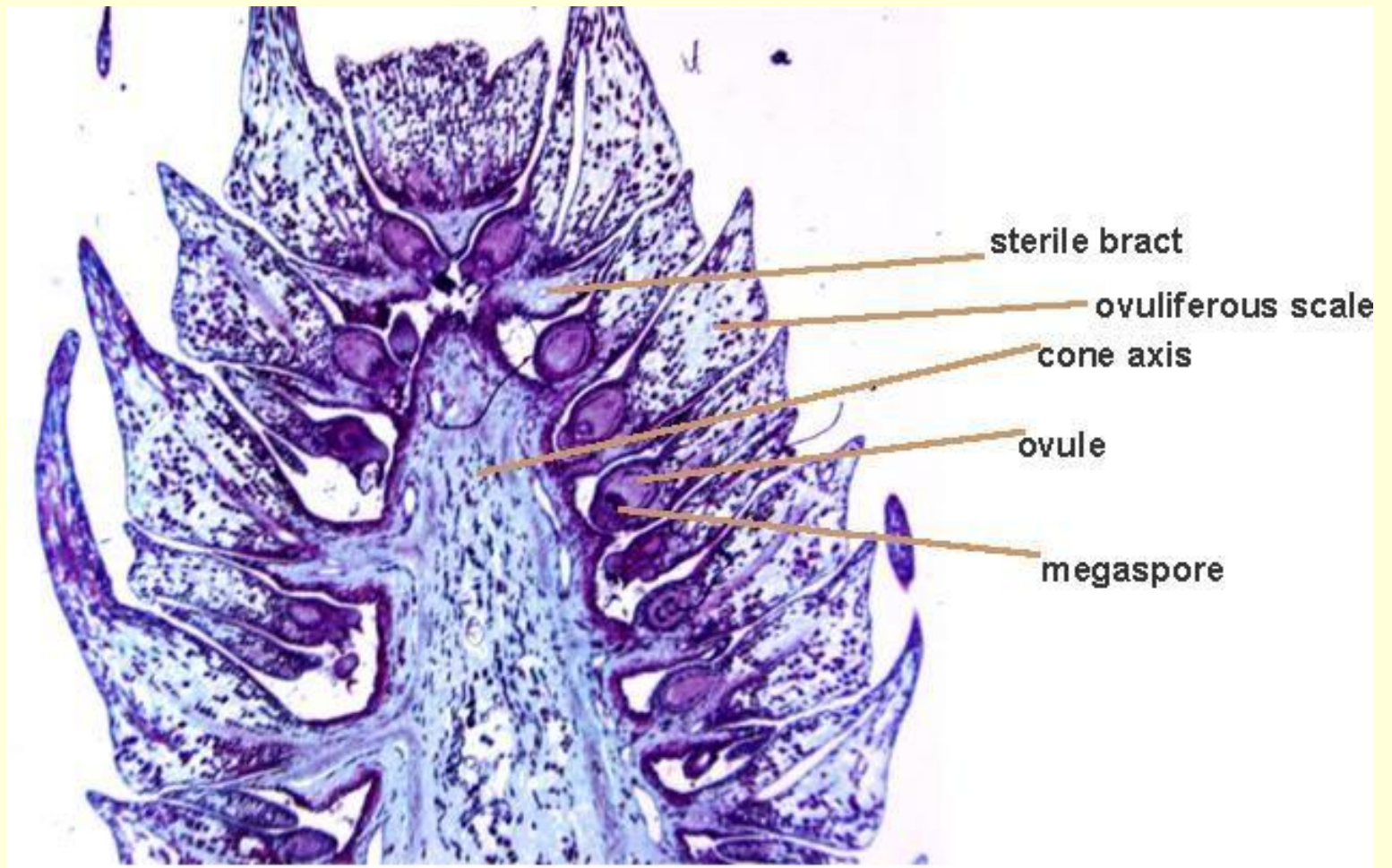
Megastrobils are collected in female cones (Ovulate cone)



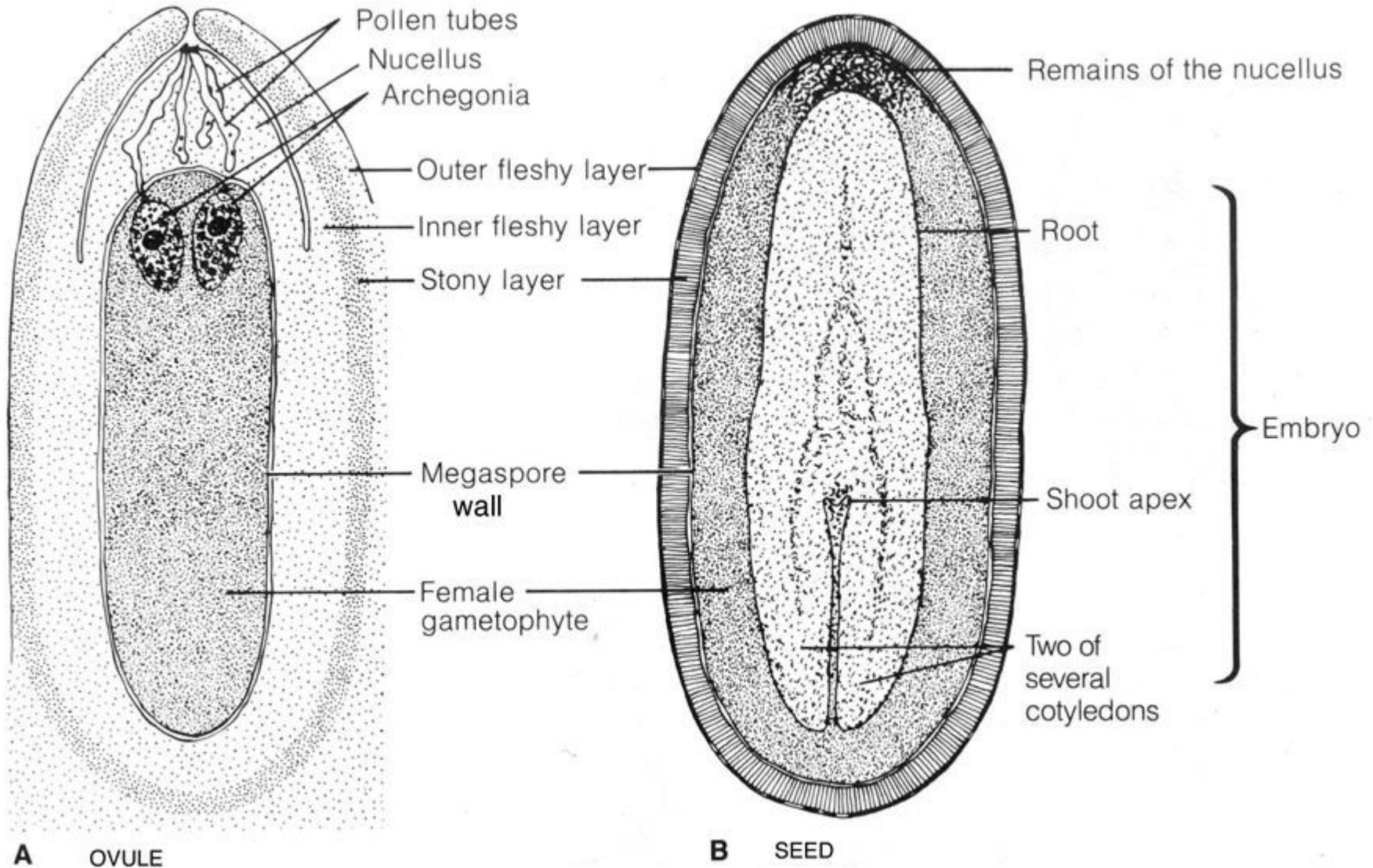


**Female cone of *Pinus***

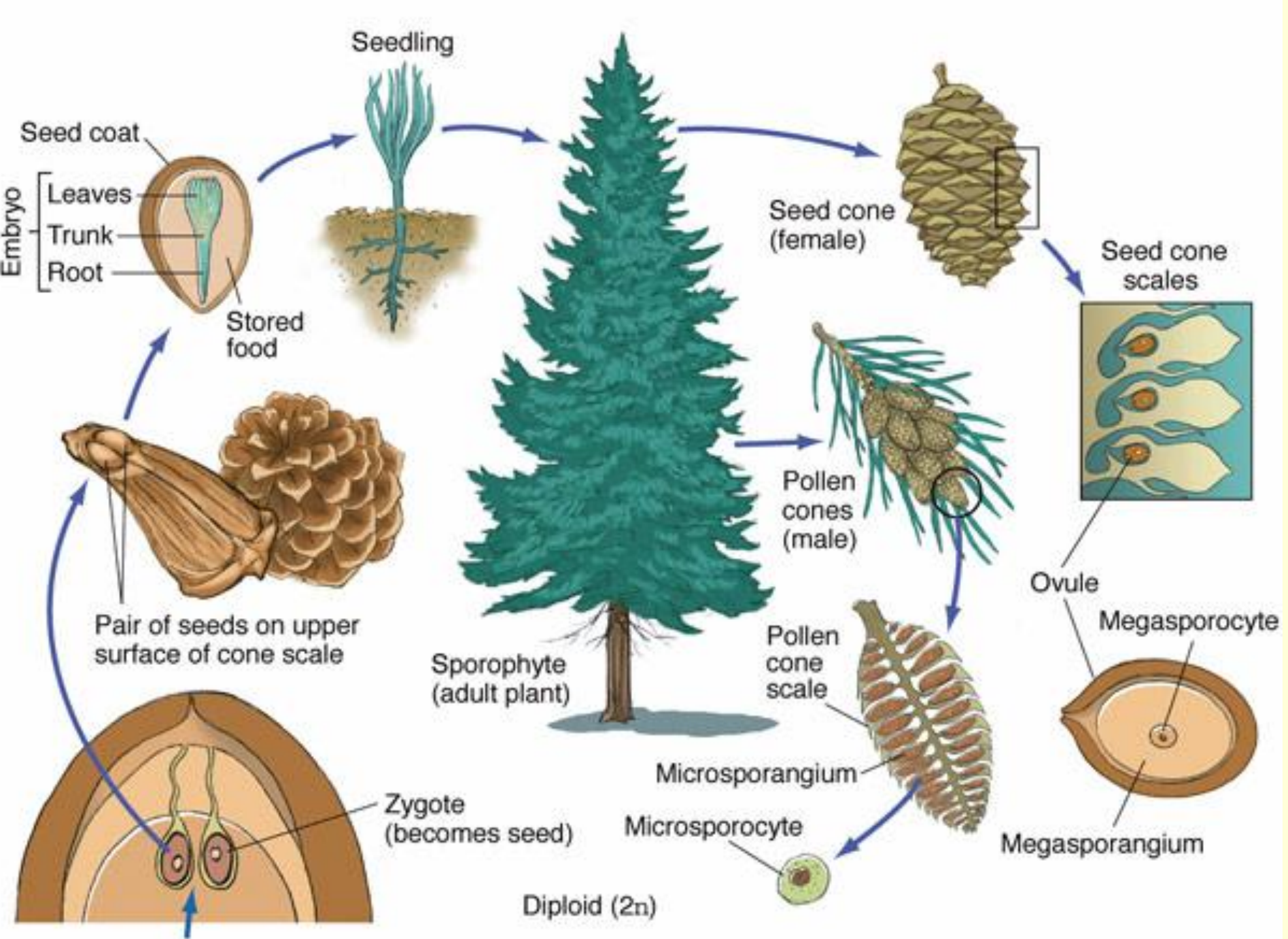


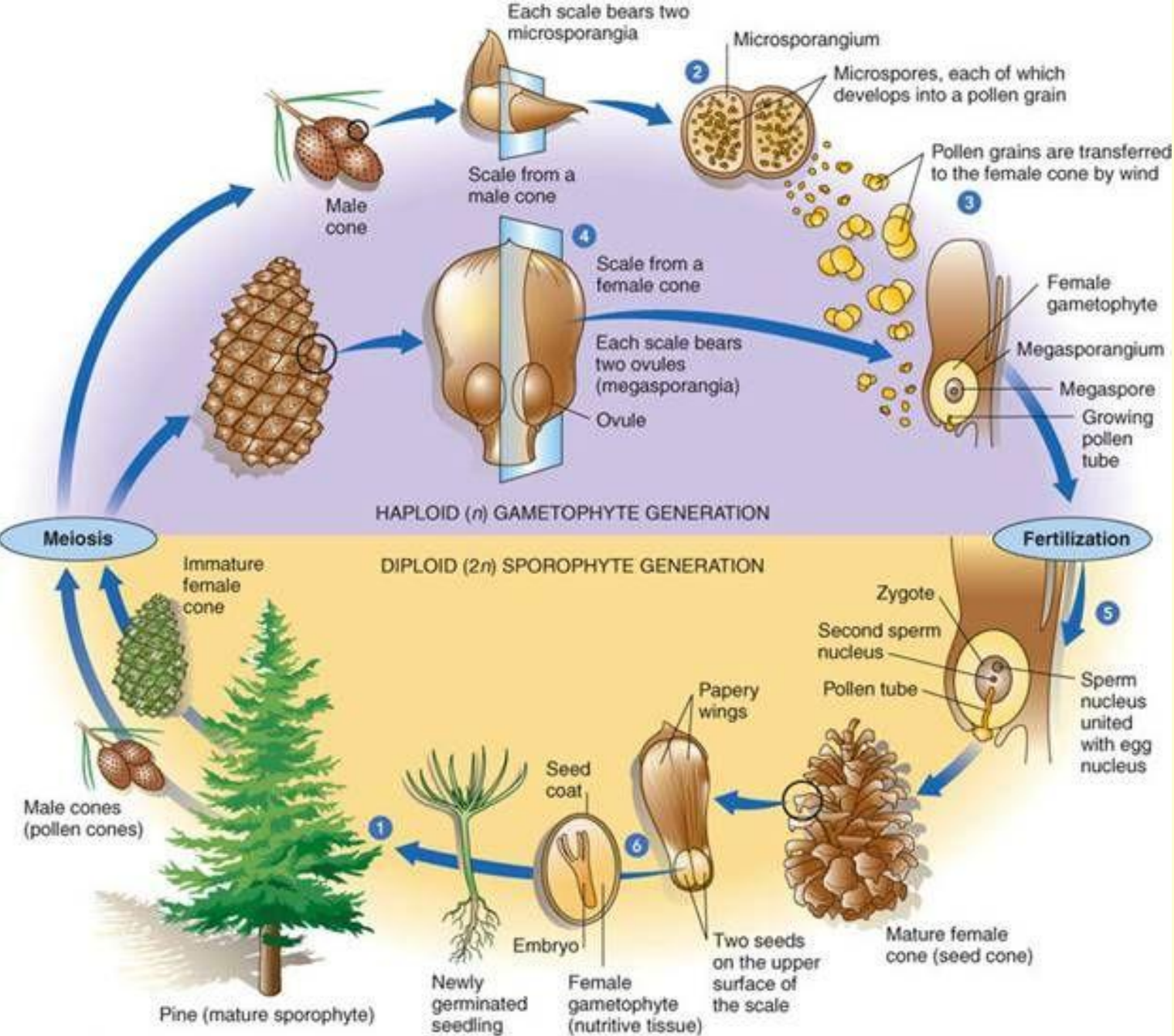


## OVULE AND SEED OF A PINE TREE









Gymnosperms are divided into six classes, of which 2 are extinct and 4 are now living.

1. Pteridospermatophyta (or "seed ferns" or "Pteridospermatopsida" (Lyginopteridopsida, Pteridospermae)
2. Cycadops (Cycadopsida)
3. Bennettites (Bennettitopsida)
4. Gnetales (Gnetopsida)
5. Ginkgoopsida
6. Conifers (Pinopsida).



The class Pteridospermatophyta (or "seed ferns" or "Pteridosper-matopsida" (Lyginopteridopsida, Pteridospermae)

### PTERIDOSPERMALES



*Neuropteris*



*Alethopteris*



*Lyginopteris*



Circinate Vernation of Leaves

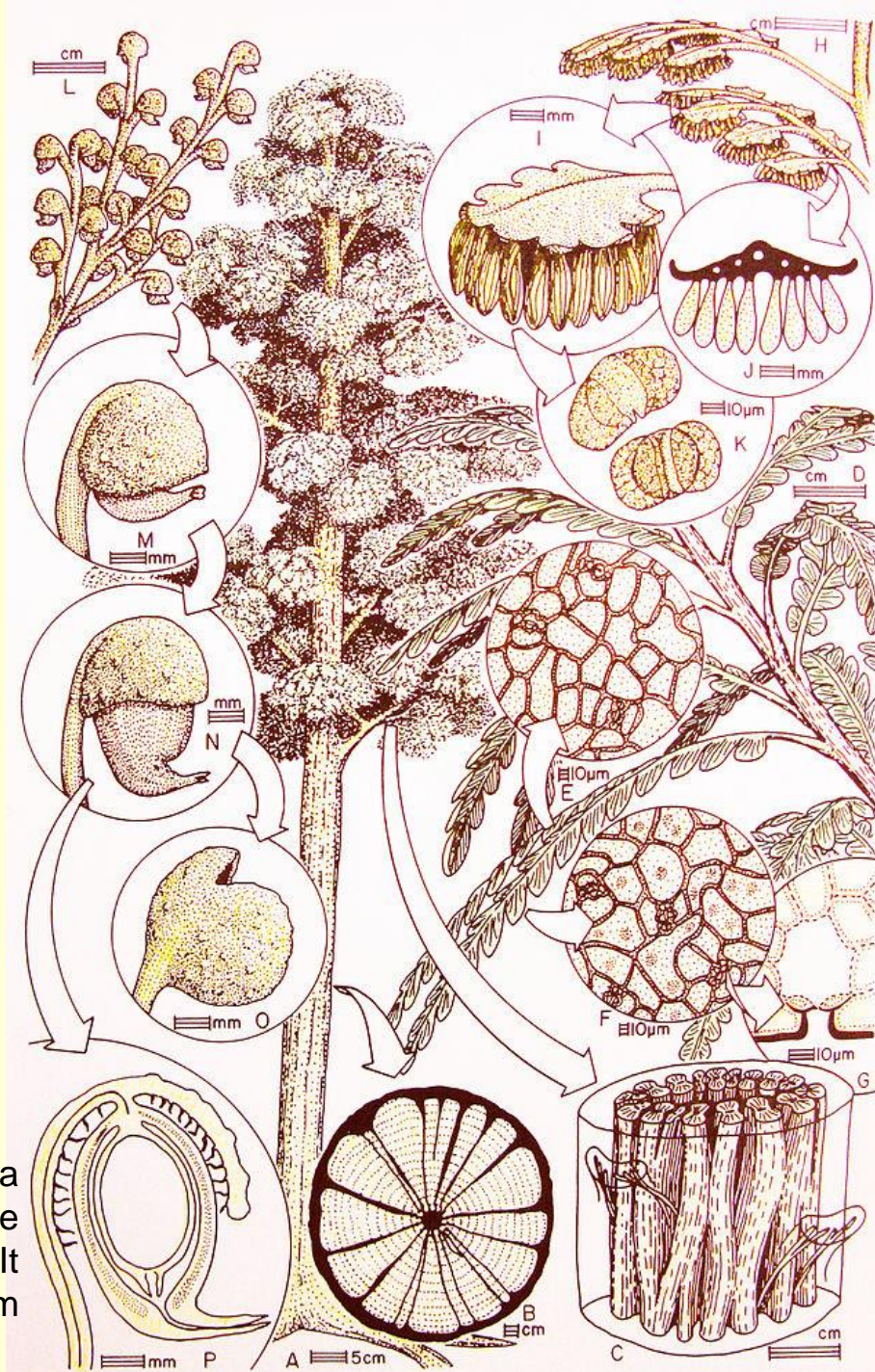
Dichotomously Veined Leaves

Erect Plant Body

Leaves  
(Fern Like)

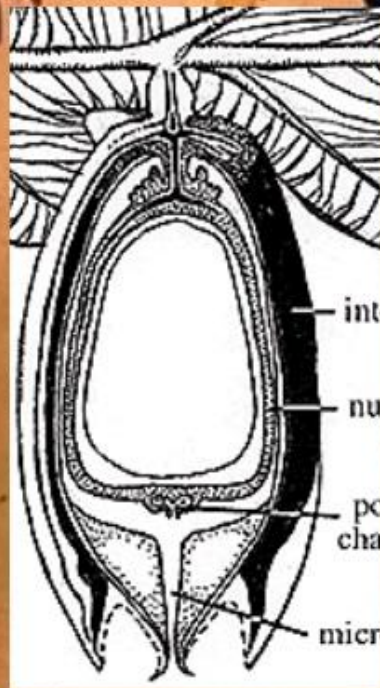
*Macroneuropteris* (Medullales) - Reconstruction

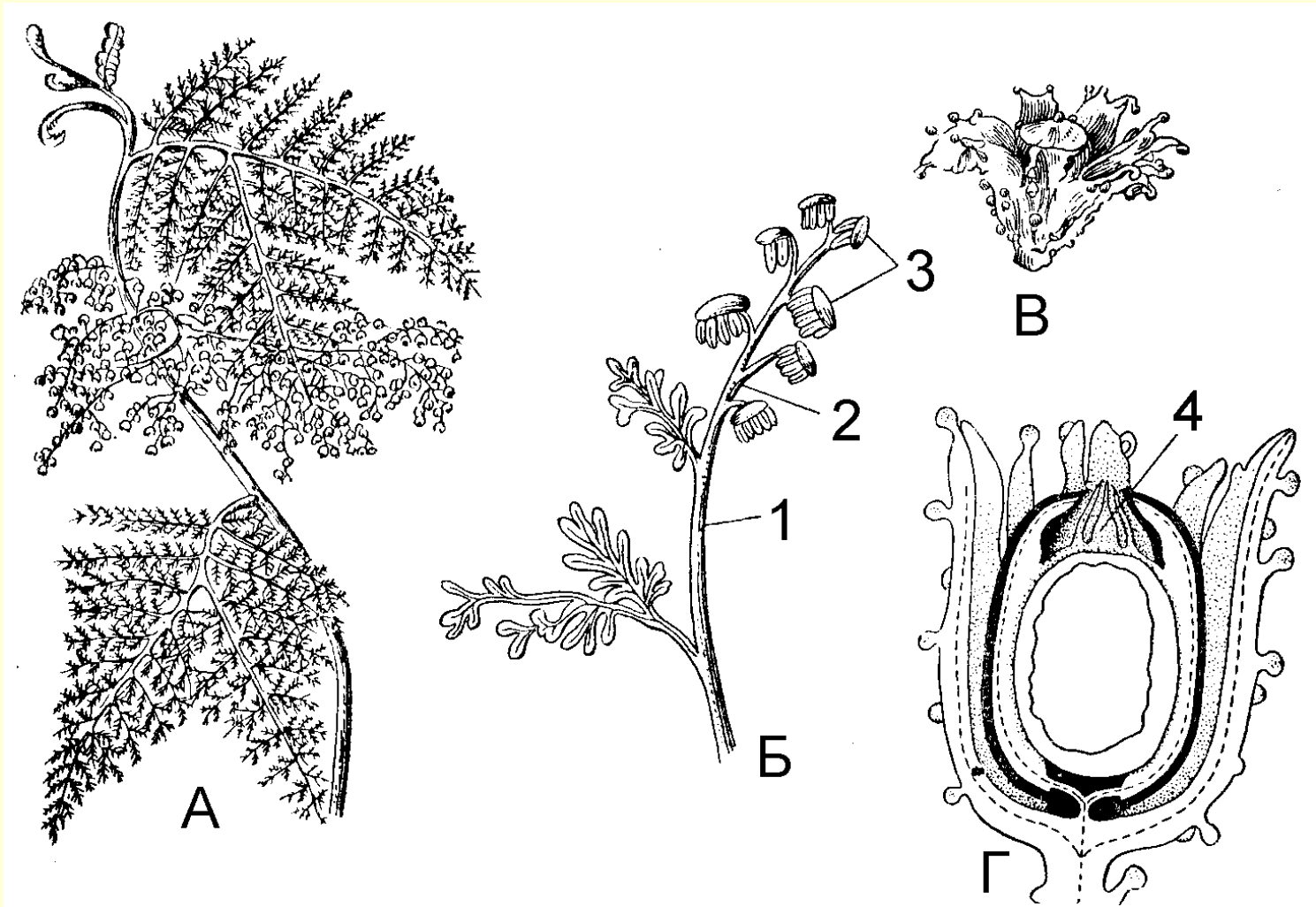
*Umkomasia macleanii* is an ovulate structure of a seed fern (Pteridospermatophyta) and the nominate genus of Family Umkomasiaceae. It was first described by Hamshaw Thomas from the Umkomas locality of South Africa





# Reconstructions of seed fern seeds



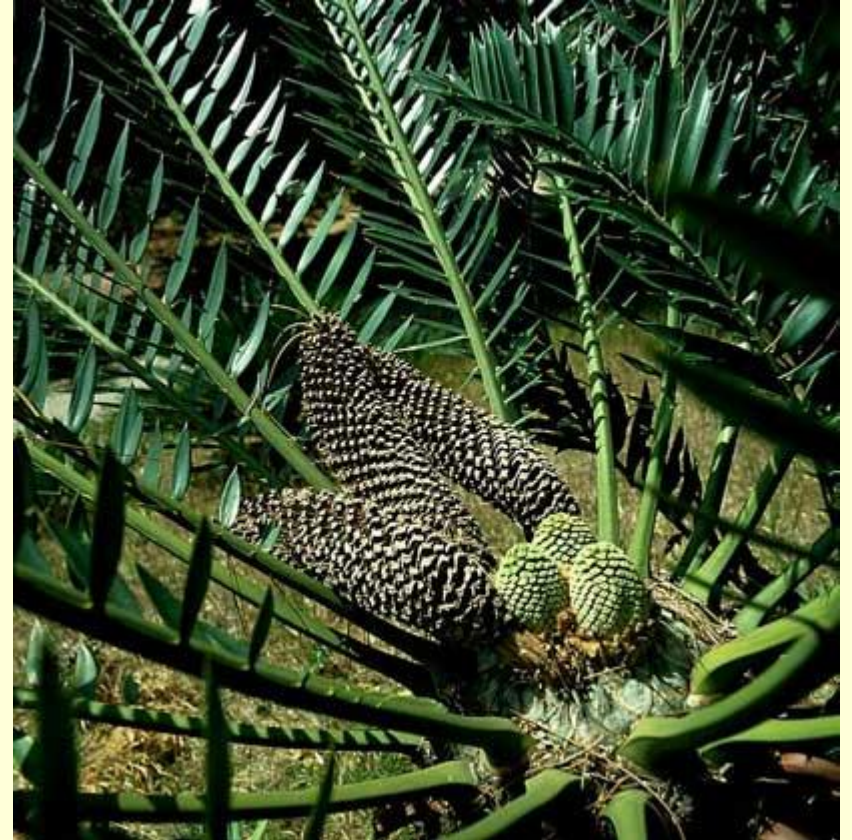


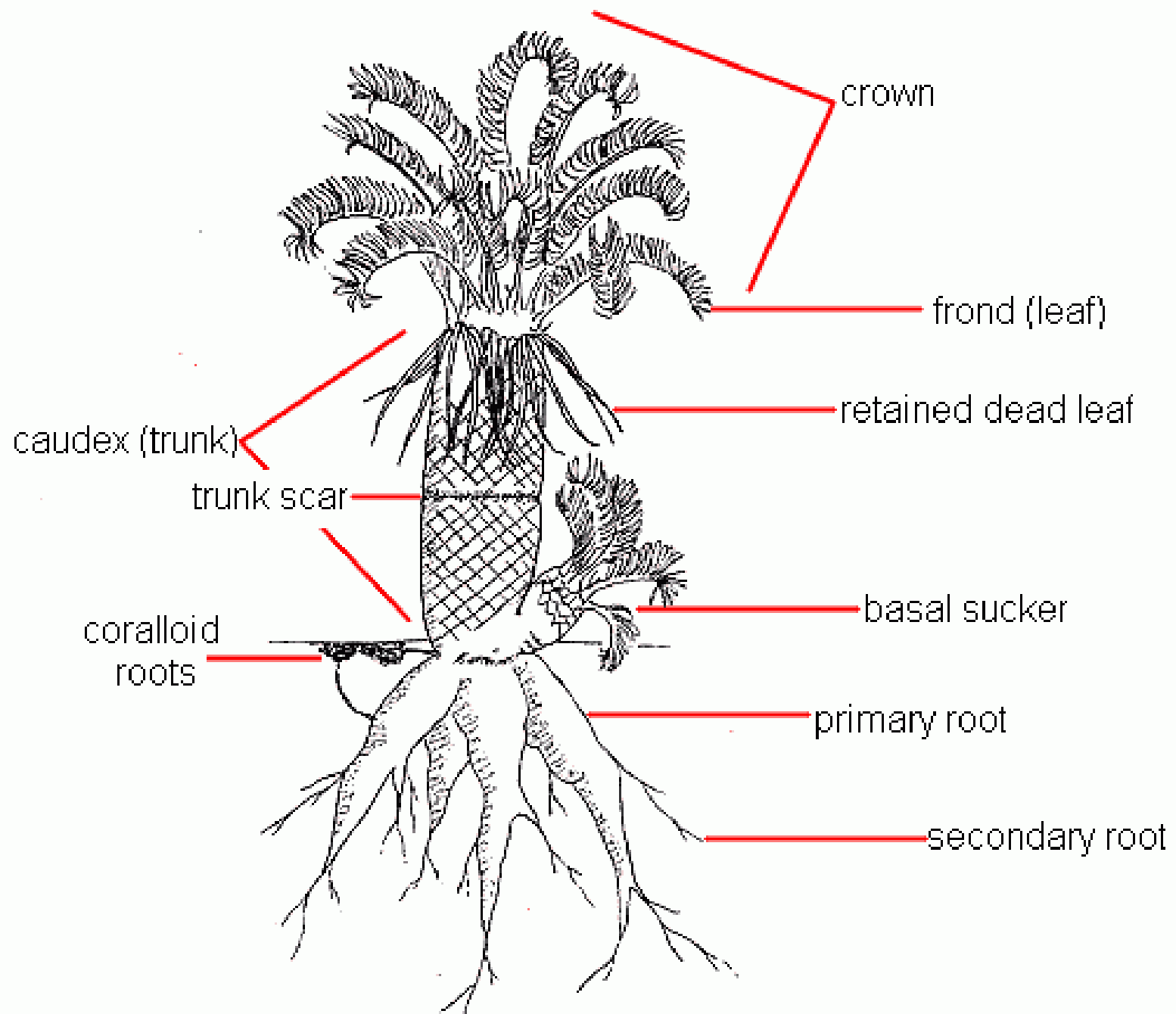
**Seed fern - *Calymmatotheca hoenighausi***

A - general view (part of the plant); Б - reproductive shoot (microsporophylls); B - ovule (outside covered by mucus); Г - longitudinal section through ovule and mucus: 1 - vegetative part of the shoot, 2 - reproductive part, 3 - sporangia.



# The class of Cycads (Cycadopsida)









*Zamia latifolia*



*Cycas revoluta*



Encephalartos sp.



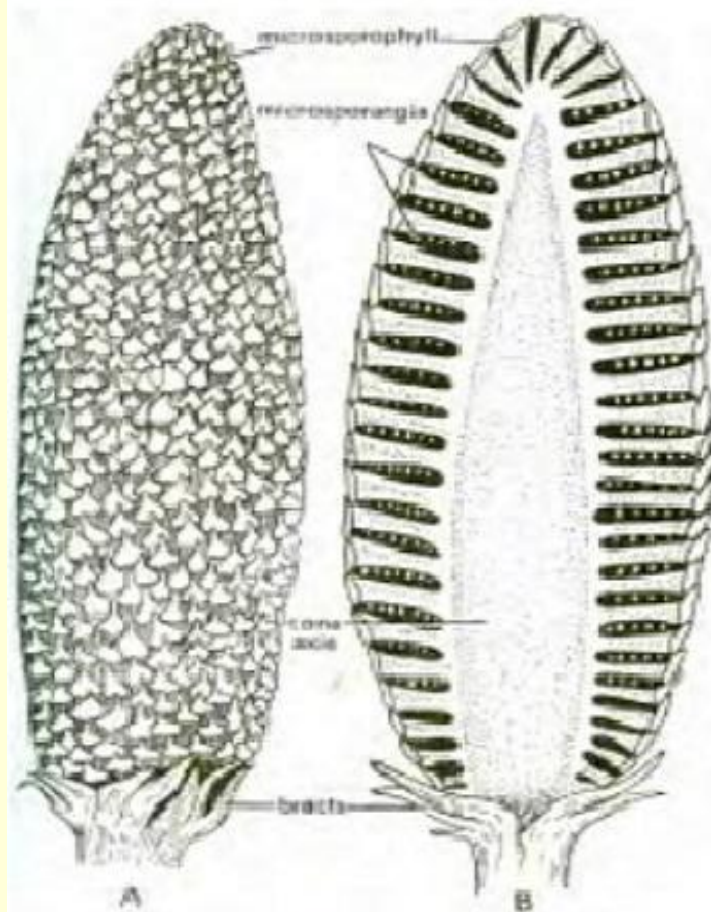


Encephalartos sp.

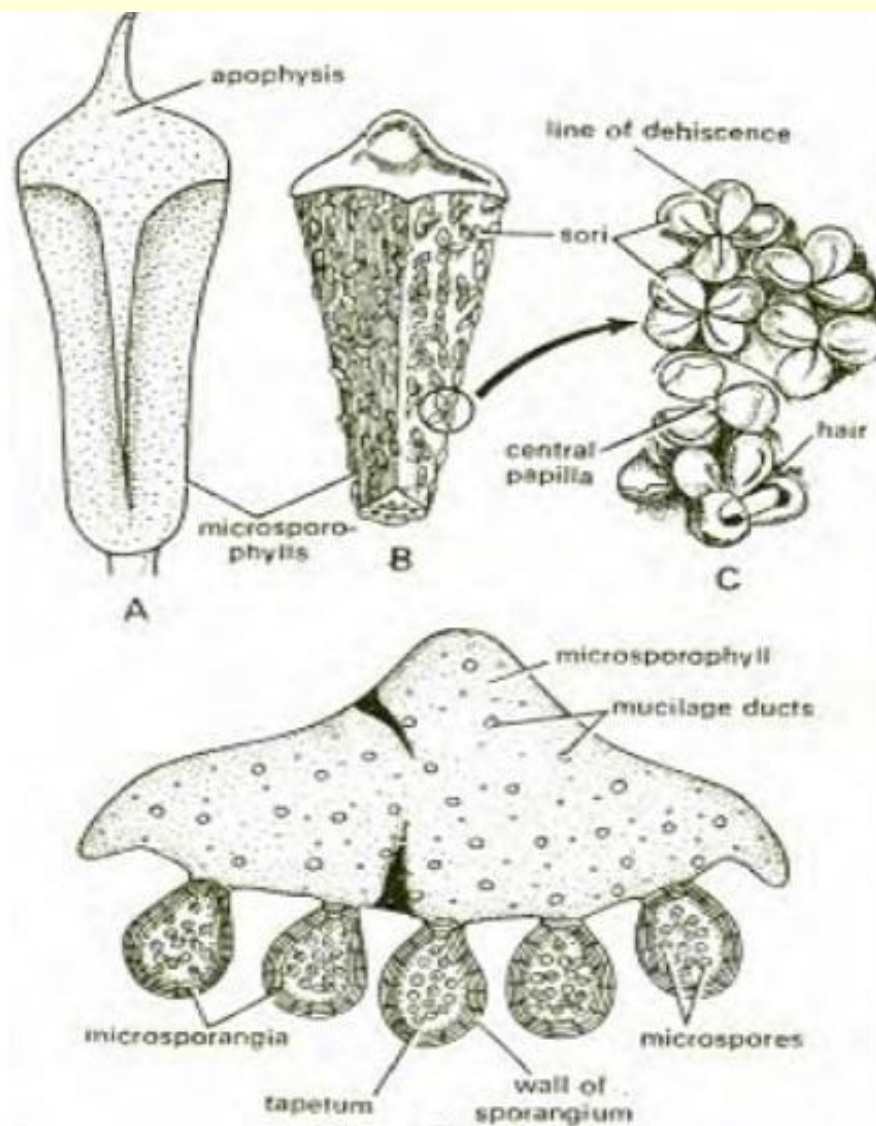


Encephalartos sp.



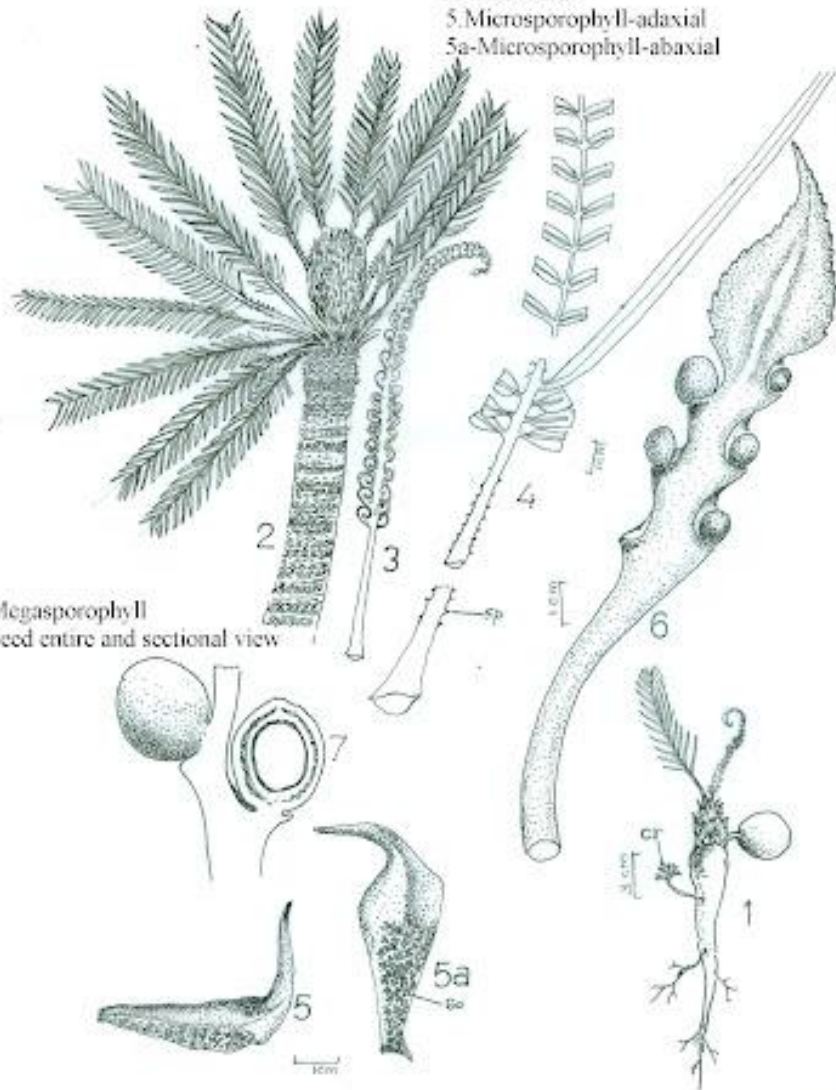


**Fig. Microsporophyll**  
**A. Entire, cone B.**  
**longitudinal section**



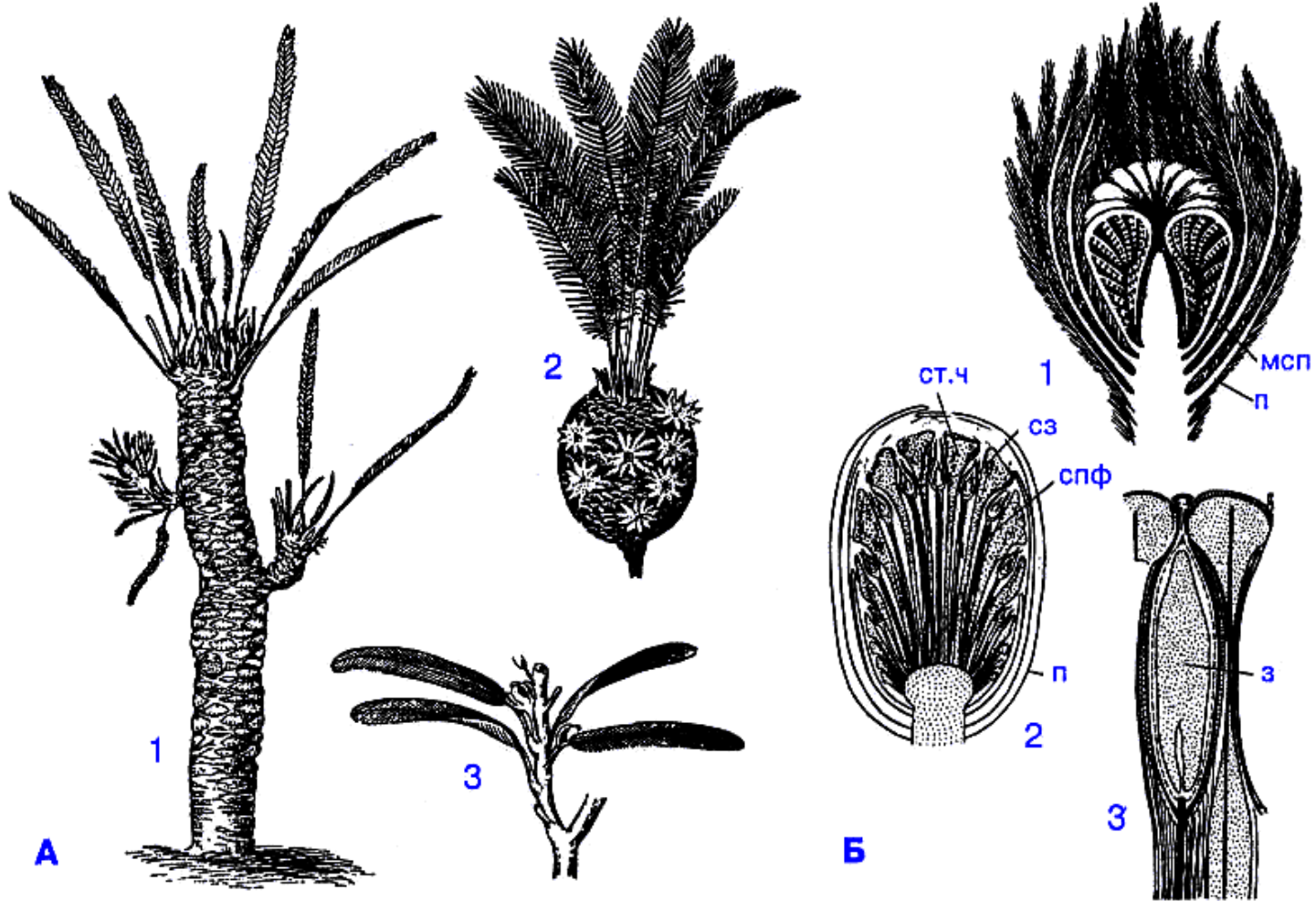


1. Seedling
2. Habit
3. Leaflets showing circinate vernation
4. Mature leaf
5. Microsporophyll-adaxial
- 5a-Microsporophyll-abaxial



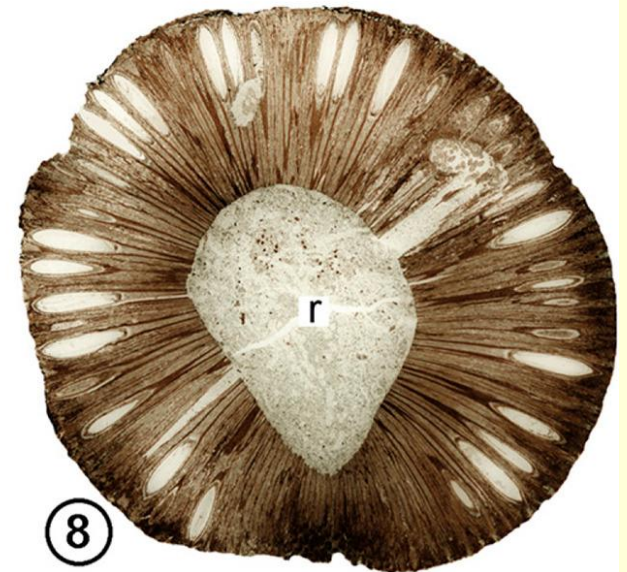
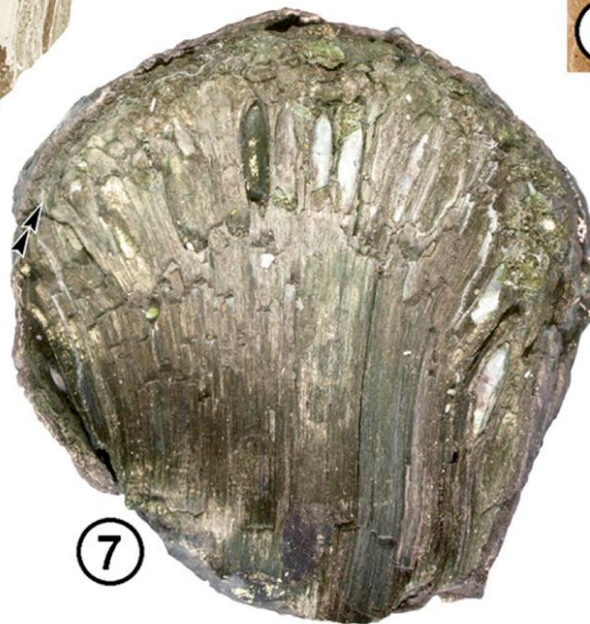
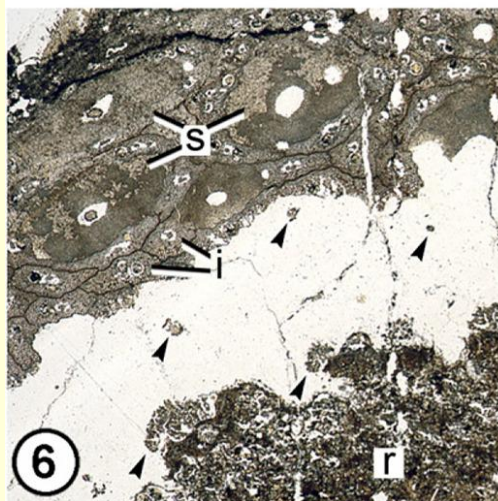


# Class Bennettites(Bennettitopsida)



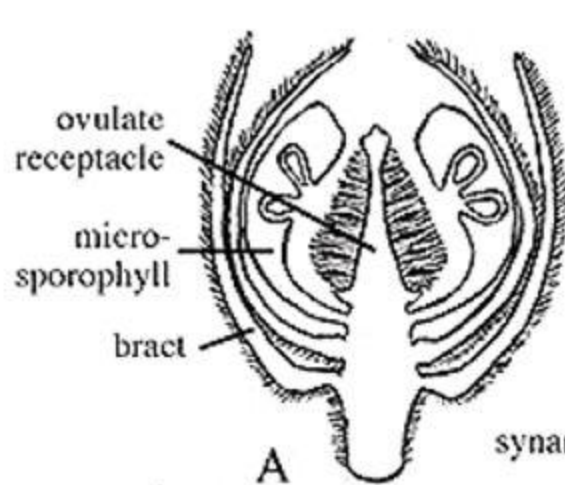
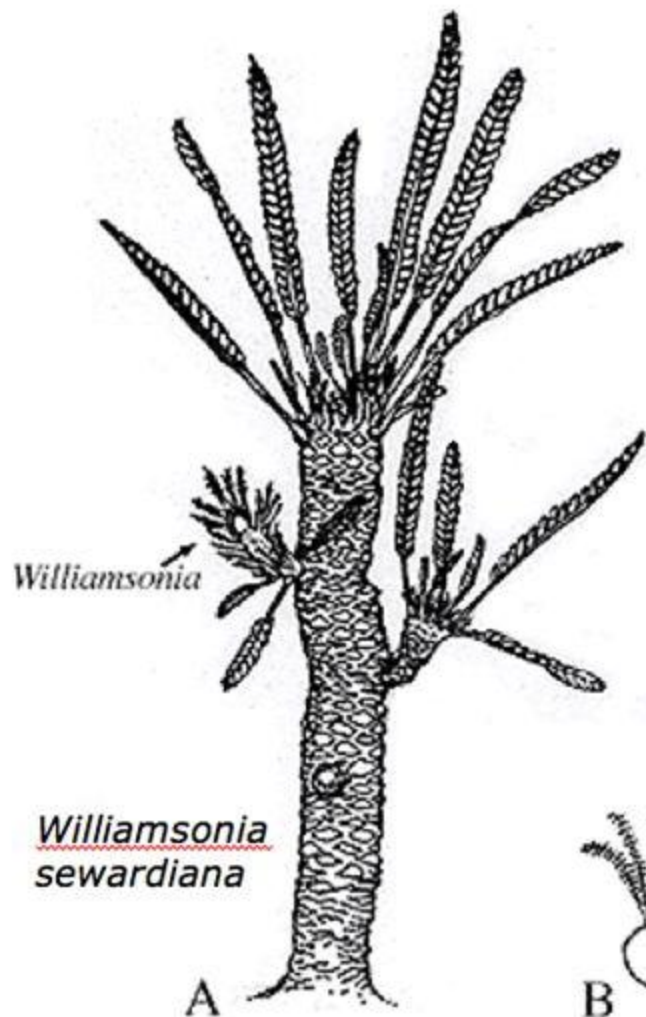
A - reconstruction: 1 - Williamsonia; 2 - Cycadeoidea; 3 - Williamsoniella ; Б - Reproductive organs: 1 - incision through strobilus of cycadeoidea; 2 - incision through female part of strobilus; мсп - microsporophyll; п - perianth; спф - megasporangiophore; сз - ovule; ст.ч - bract scale; 3 - longitudinal incision through the seed; 3 - embryo.



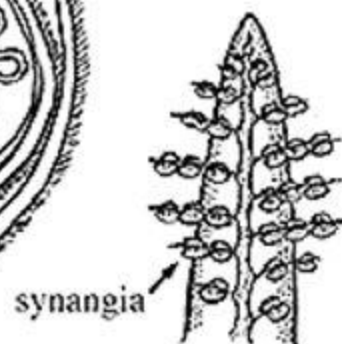




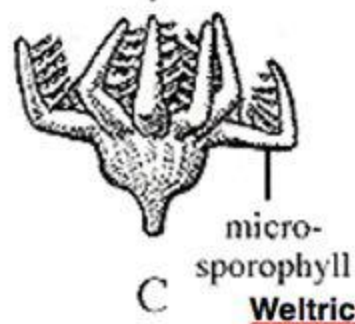
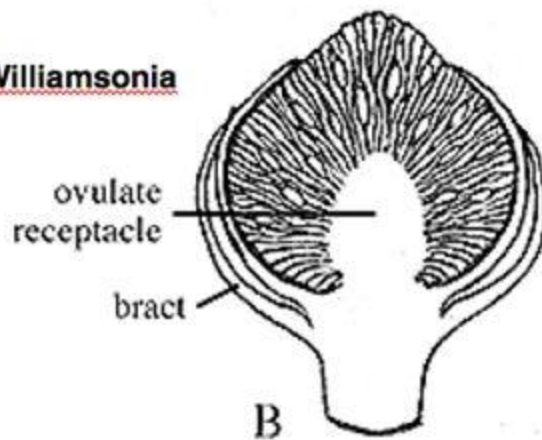
## Bennetitales: *Williamsonia*



Williamsoniella

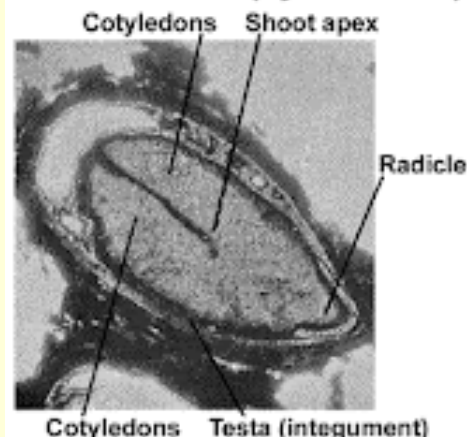


Williamsonia

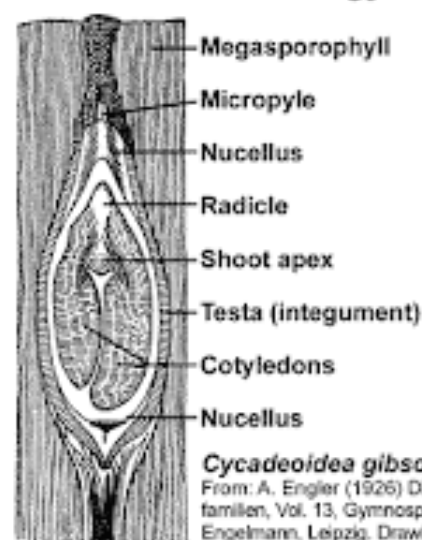


Weltrichia

# Bennettitales (cycadeoids): Fossil seeds of extinct gymnosperms

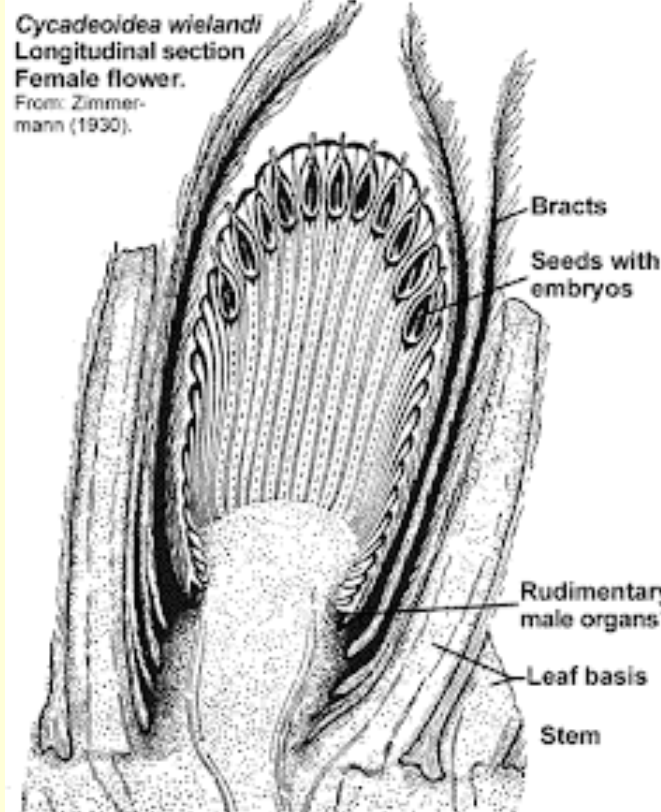


***Bennettites gibsonianus* seed section.**  
From: D. H. Scott (1909) Studies in Fossil Botany, Vol. II, Spermatophyta, Adam and Charles Black, London. Photograph: Dr. Bousfield, S. Coll. 351.

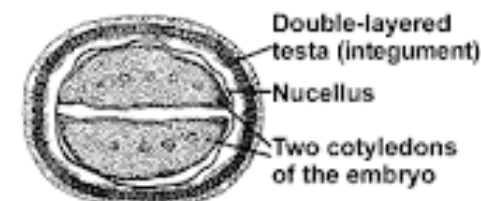


***Cycadeoidea gibsoniana* seed section.**  
From: A. Engler (1926) Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien, Vol. 13, Gymnospermae, Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipzig. Drawing: Solms-Laubach.

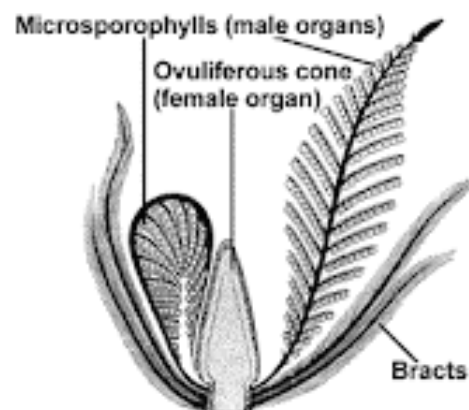
© 2007 G. Leubner  
The Seed Biology Place  
<http://www.seedbiology.de>



***Cycadeoidea wielandi* Longitudinal section Female flower.**  
From: Zimmermann (1930).



***Bennettites gibsonianus* seed section.**  
Transverse section of a seed. Note the vascular bundles in the cotyledons. From: D. H. Scott (1909).



***Cycadeoidea dacotensis* bisexual flower.**  
From: W. Zimmermann (1930) Die Phylogenie der Pflanzen. Verlag von Gustav Fischer, Jena. Drawing: Wieland.



# The Gnetophytes class (Gnetopsida)



Welwitschia



Ephedra



# Gnetum gnemon



Male cone



© Marina Khaytarova

The female cones





Vegetative and reproductive morphology of Chinese Gnetum. a Leaves and branches of *G. parvifolium*. b Leaves of *G. luofuense*. c Male spikes of *G. montanum*. d A male spike of *G. luofuense* (= *G. hainanense*). e Female spikes of *G. luofuense* (= *G. hainanense*). f A female spike of *G. catasphaericum*. g A female spike of *G. parvifolium* with a developing seed. h Seeds of *G. luofuense* (= *G. hainanense*) in clusters. Seeds of Chinese lianoid Gnetum. i *G. parvifolium*. j *G. formosum*. k *G. catasphaericum*. l *G. montanum*. m–n *G. pendulum*. o, p *G. luofuense* (= *G. hainanense*). Photographs by C. Hou, J. Lau and X.J. Zeng







*Welwitschia mirabilis*







Female cones in flower

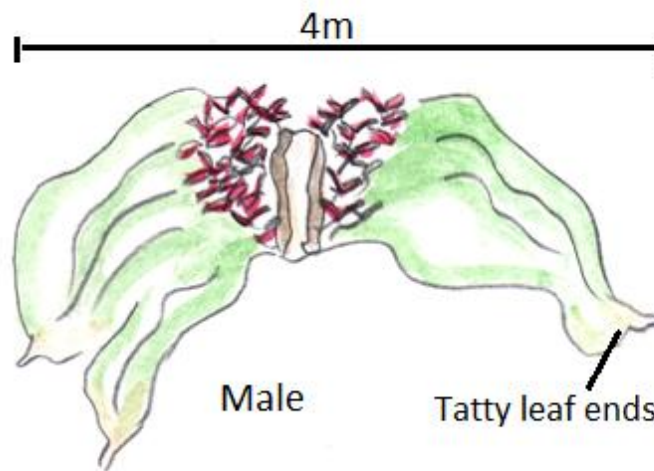


Male cones in flower





Young Welwitschia



Male

Tatty leaf ends



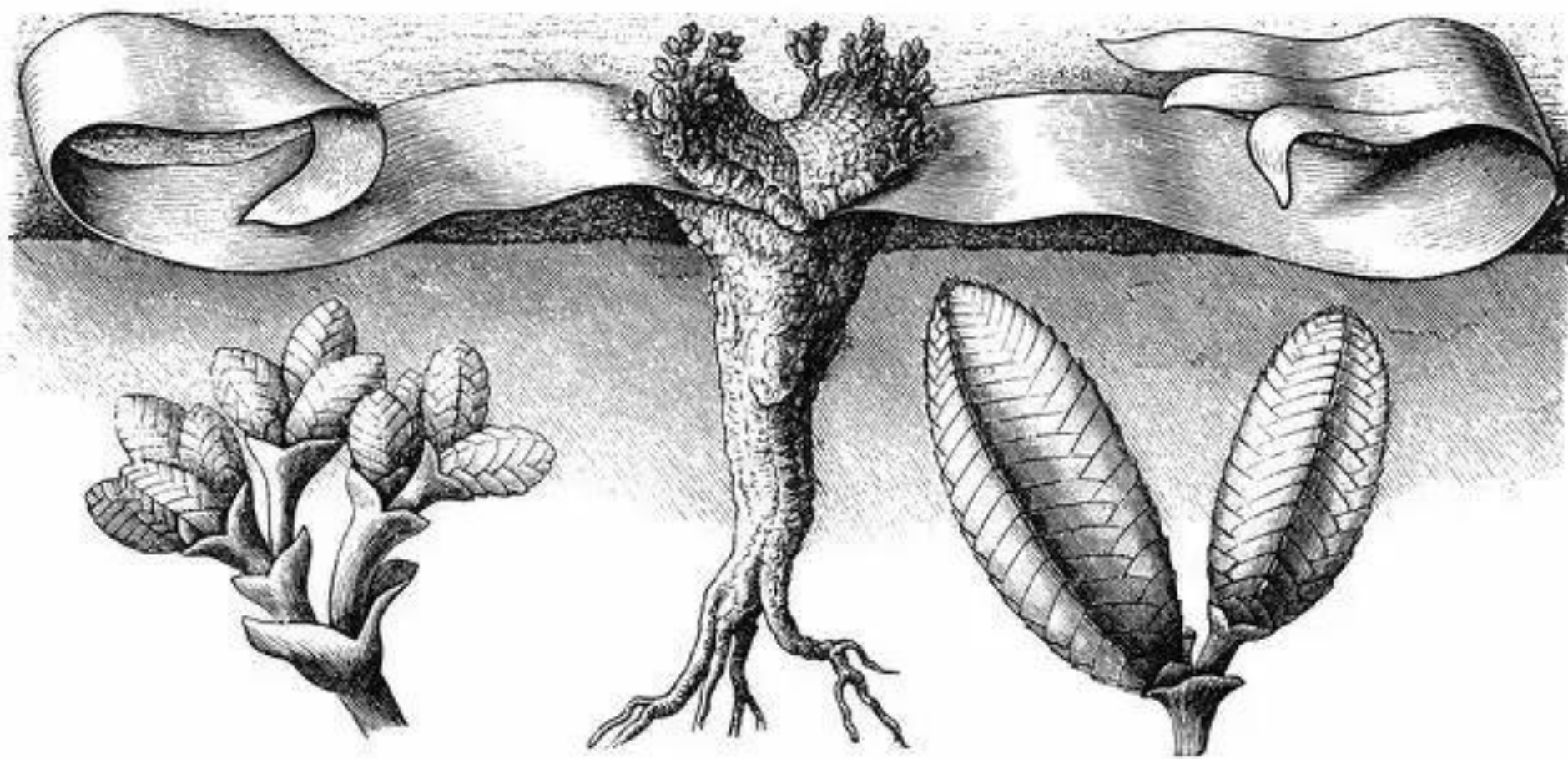
Male cone



Female



Female cone







Jenny Gels Thue-Nilsen



# *Ephedra distachya*



Male plant

Female plant



Male strobilus



Female strobilus

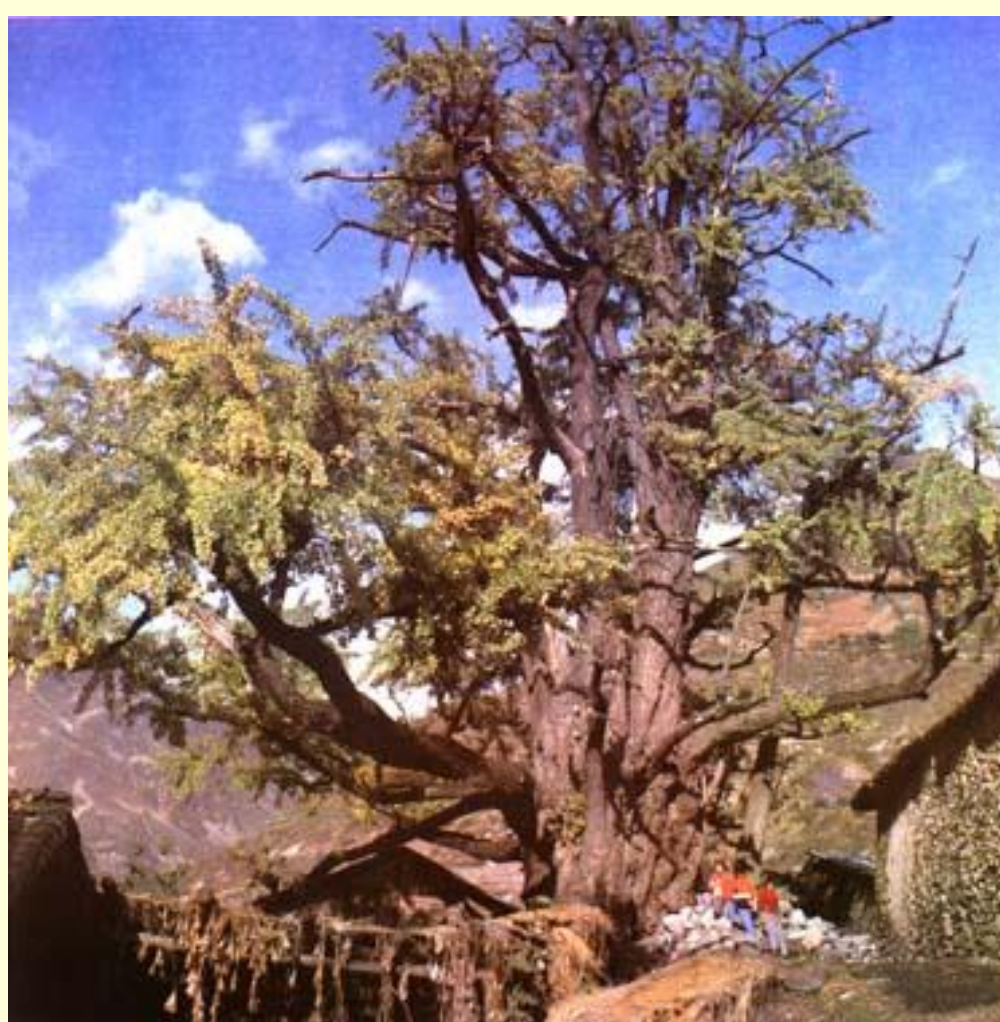




# Class Ginkgoopsida



Ginkgo biloba

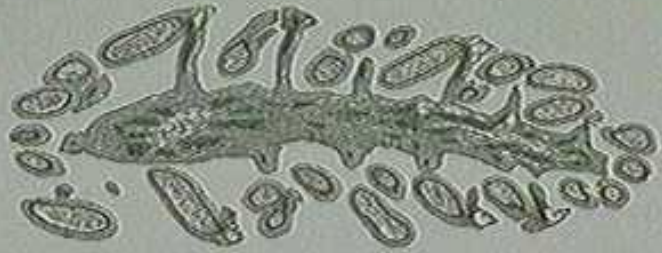




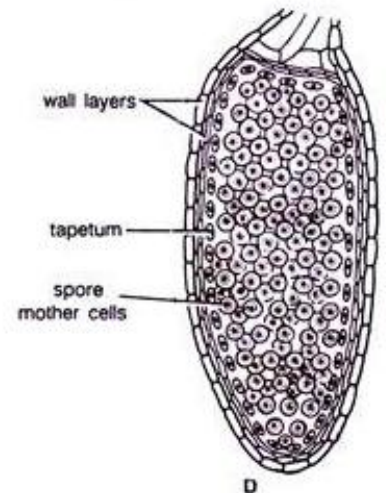
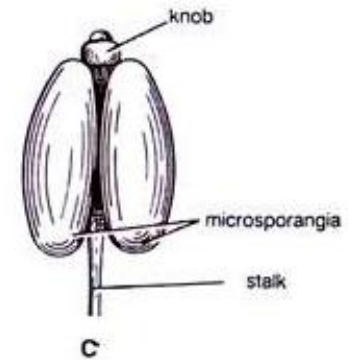
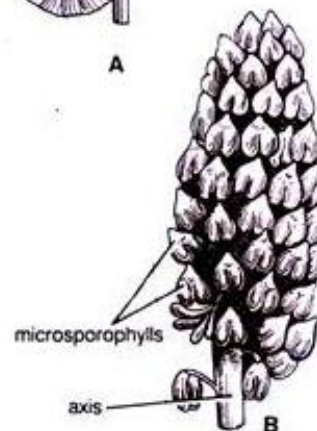
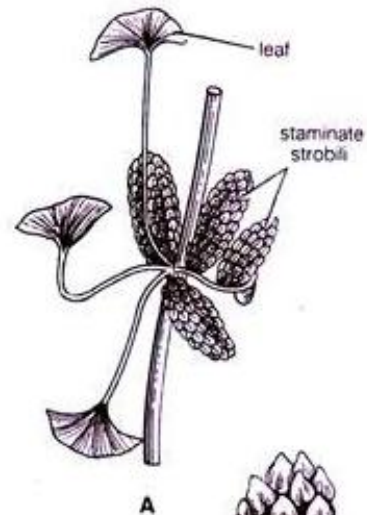
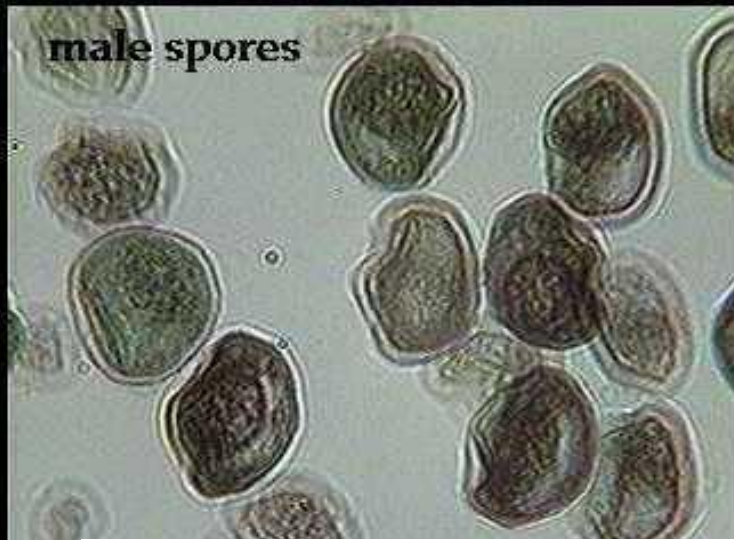


Male ctrobilus

male strobilus (ls)



male spores



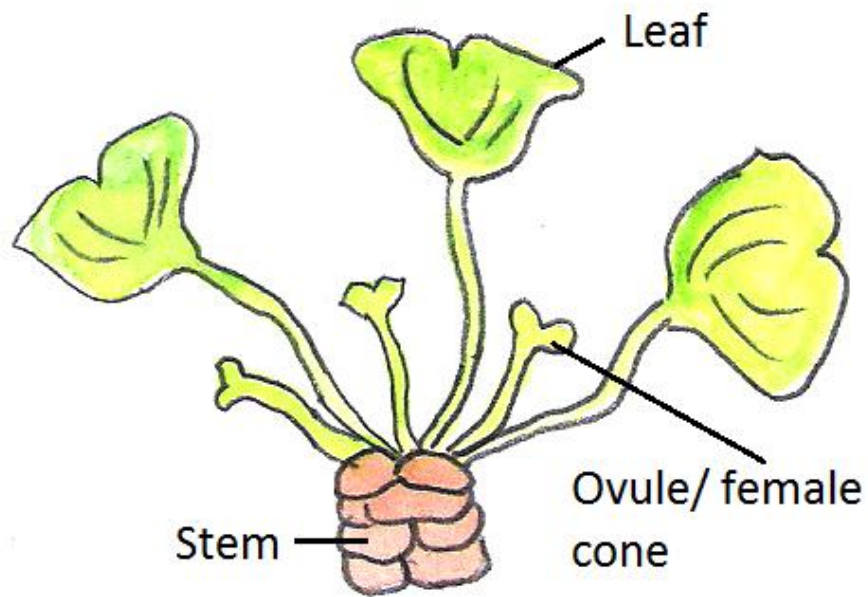




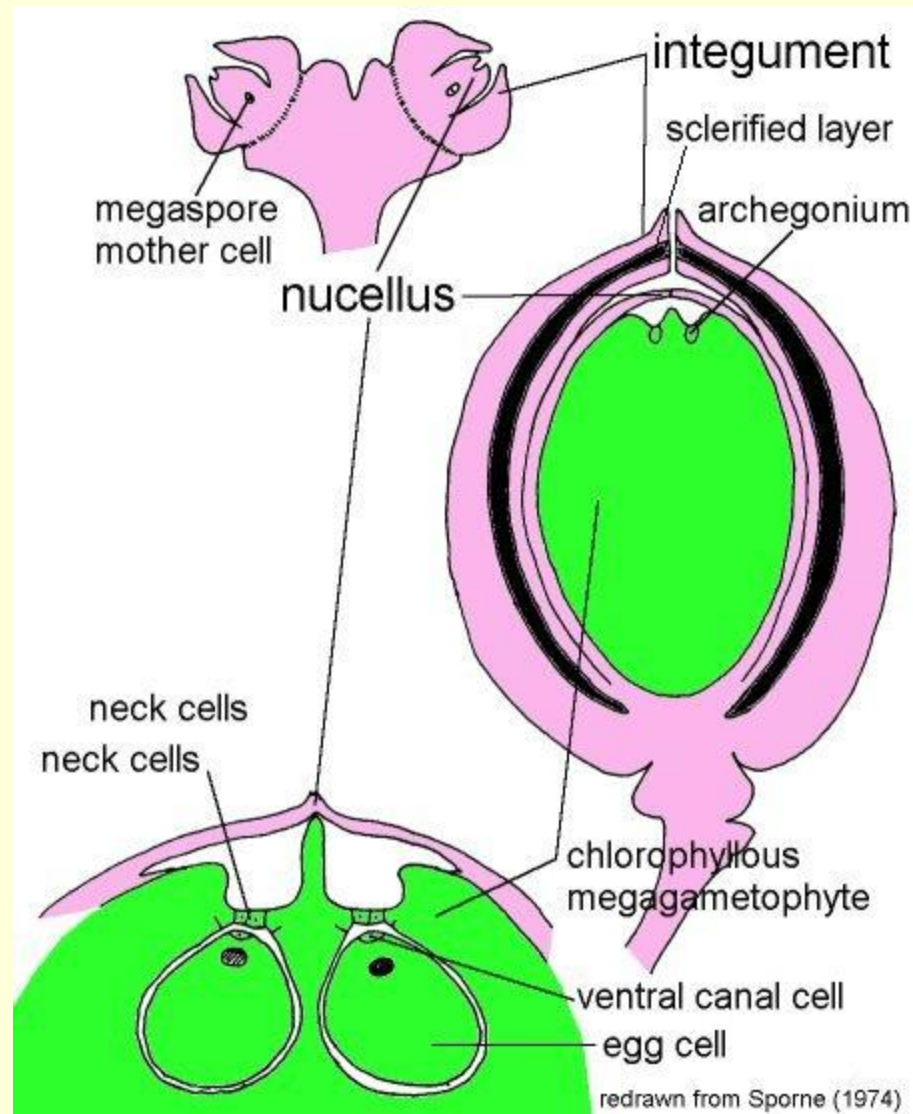


Female strobilus





Embryo of ginkgo









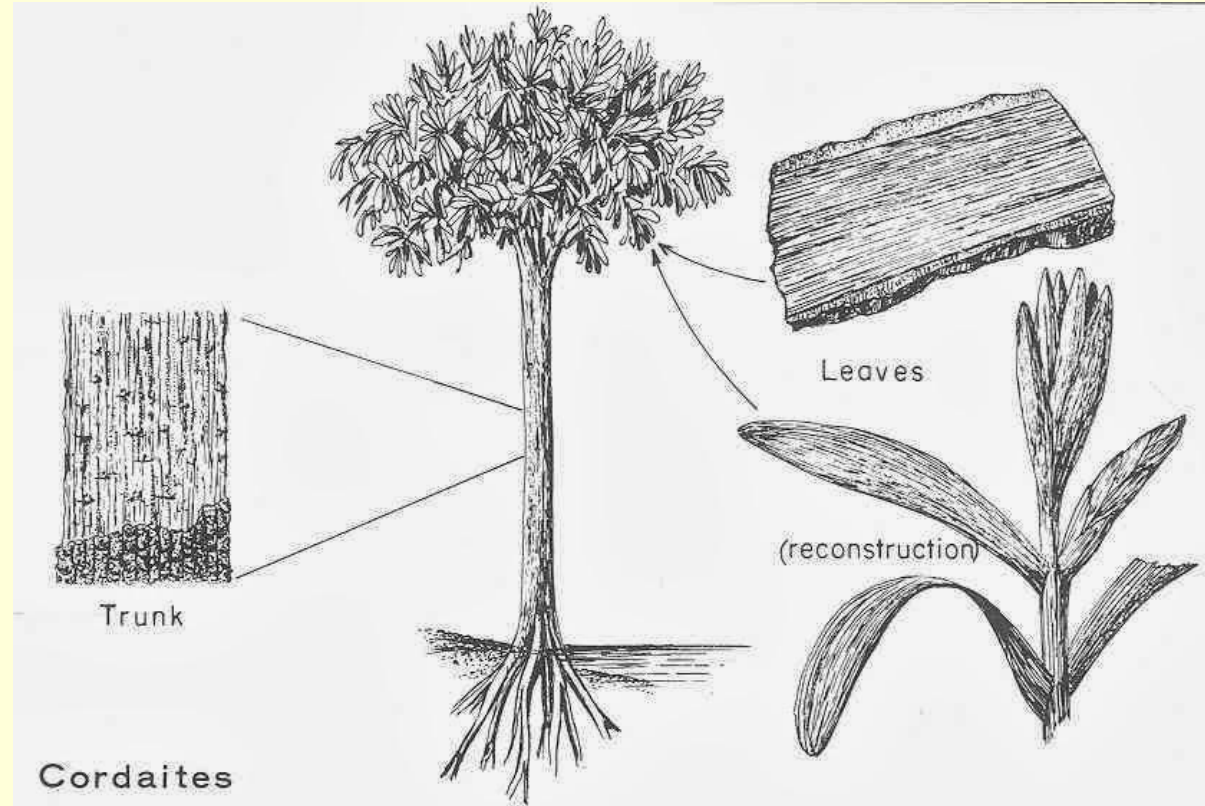
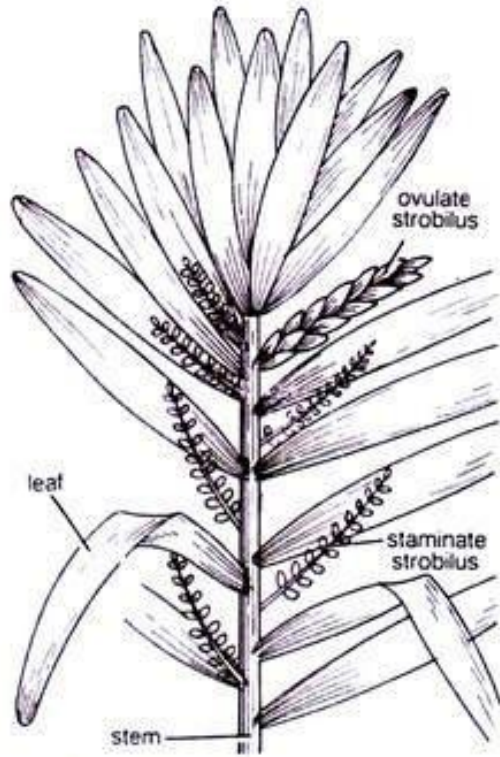
Ginkgo Fossils

# Class Conifers - Pinopsida

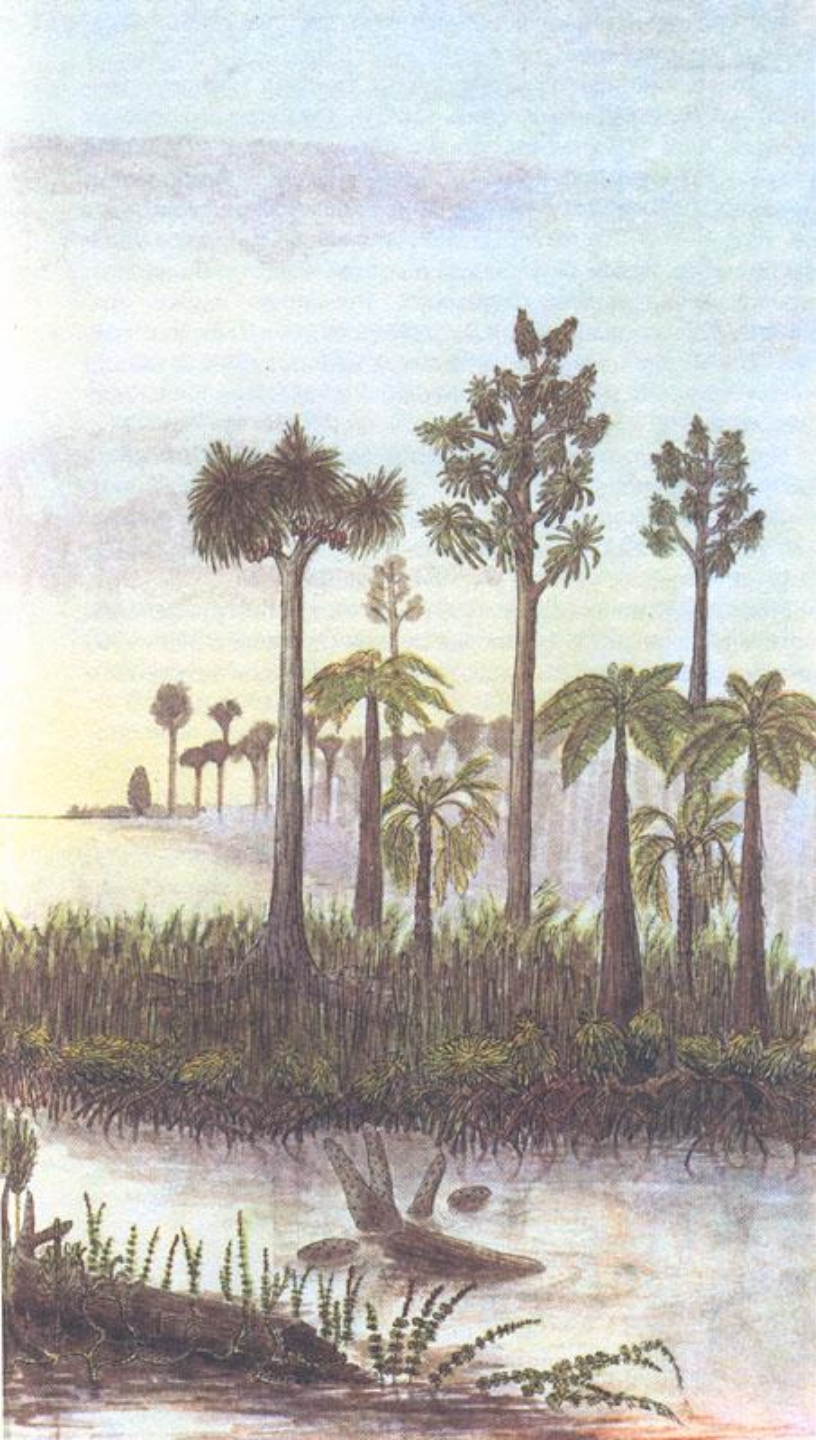




# Subclass **Cordaitea** (**Cordaitidae**) (Cordaitidae)







Cordaite fossils







# Subclass Conifers - Pinidae





# Coniferous Trees



Red Spruce



Sitka Spruce



Western Hemlock



Deodar Cedar



Eastern Hemlock



Hick's Yew



Giant Sequoia



California Redwood



Bald Cypress



Spartan Juniper



Sugar pine



Red Pine



Noble Fir



Japanese Yew



Western Larch



Atlas Cedar

■ Fir, Balsam



40 to 60 ft.  
(12 to 18 m)



Needles



Cone



Bark

■ Juniper, Red, or eastern redcedar



40 to 50 ft.  
(12 to 15 m)



Berrylike cone

Scalelike leaves



Bark

■ Hemlock, Eastern



60 to 75 ft.  
(18 to 23 m)



Needles

Cone



Bark

■ Larch, Eastern, or tamarack



40 to 60 ft.  
(12 to 18 m)



Needles

Cone



Bark





[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBhP\\_YPYyU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBhP_YPYyU4)

<https://opened.cuny.edu/courseware/lesson/736/overview>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFR\\_\\_T5H6\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFR__T5H6_E)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exJ21G0Dpa0>

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