

Parana-pine

Araucaria angustifolia (Bert.) Kuntze

Araucaria family (Araucariaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large evergreen tree with straight axis, horizontal branches usually in tiers or rings of 4–8, and spreading lance-shaped sharp-pointed leaves. Introduced about 1955 and relatively slow growing in Hawaii, it has not reached large size. At two different sites, it grew to 24 ft (7 m) height in 6 years.

Leaves borne singly or sometimes paired, mostly 1¼–2¼ inches (3–6 cm) long and to ¼ inch (6 mm) wide, green or whitish green, long-pointed, stiff and leathery, with keel and whitish lines beneath. Upper leaves on cone-bearing branches shorter and crowded in spirals.

Male and female cones usually on different trees, the male crowded near bases of leaves, cylindrical, 3–4 inches (7.5–10 cm) long and ½–¾ inch (1.3–2 cm) wide. Mature female cones large, rounded, slightly flattened, 5 inches (13 cm) long and 6½ inches (16.5 cm) in diameter, narrowed from middle upwards. Cone-scales many, overlapping, ending in stiff points curved backward. Seeds large, shiny brown, oblong, to 2 inches (5 cm) long, ¾ inch (2 cm) wide, and ⅜ inch (1 cm) thick.

The wood of trees grown in Brazil has sapwood and heartwood of various shades of brown, sometimes streaked with red. It has a specific gravity of 0.55 and is a general purpose softwood used for construction, millwork, boxes, and pulp.

Formerly this species was an important timber species of southern Brazil. However, after cutting, the natural forests are being replaced by plantations of more rapidly growing pines.

This tropical species has not been extensively planted in Hawaii. It has been tried in a few plantations and has done well in two locations at 2100 ft elevation (640 m). It may be seen at the Kalopa section of the Hamakua Forest Reserve on the Island of Hawaii.

Special areas

Keahua, Wahiawa, Kula

Range

Native of southern Brazil and northeastern Argentina

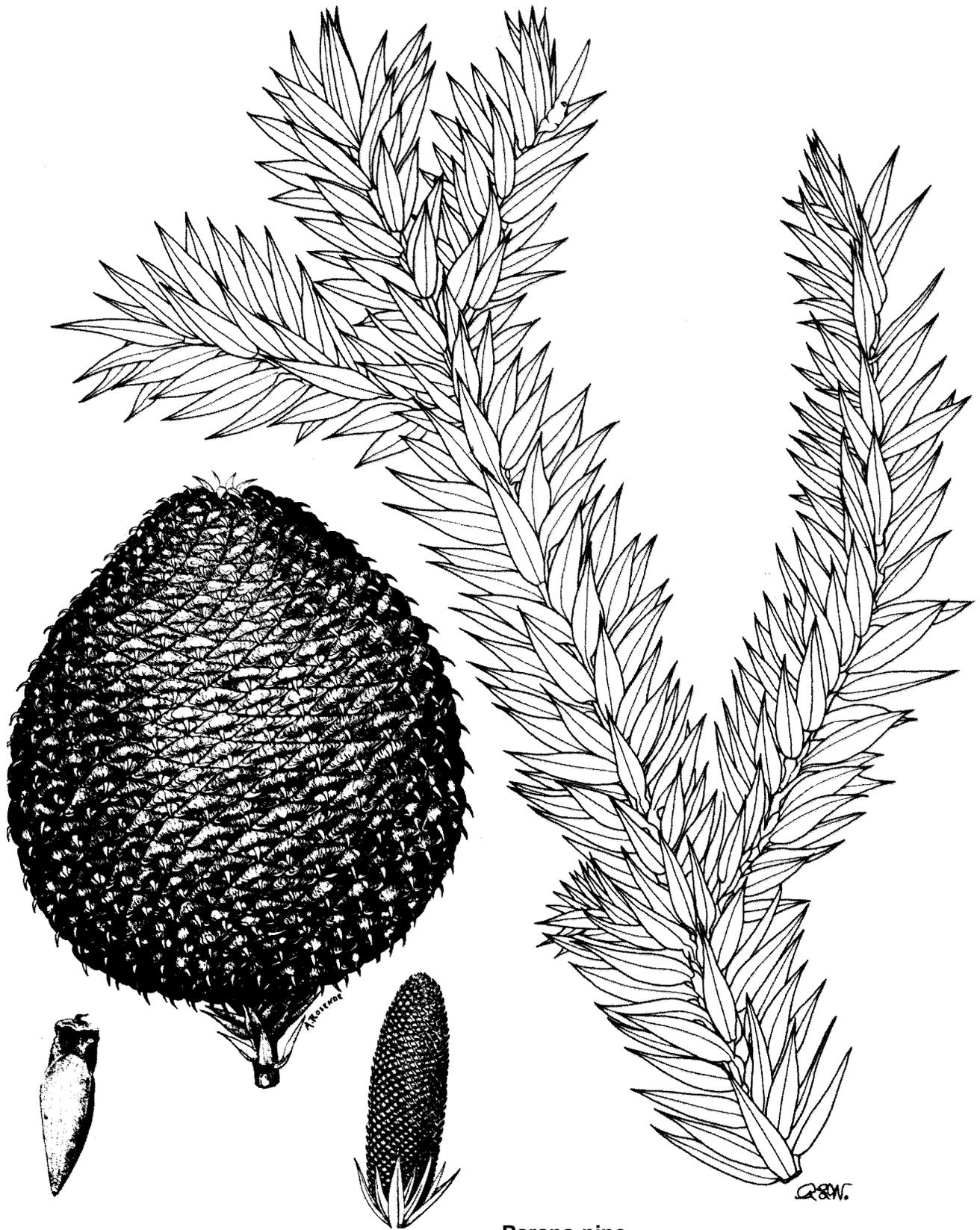
Other common names

candelabra-tree, Parana araucaria

Botanical synonym

Araucaria brasiliana A. Rich.

The generic name is derived from Arauco, the province in Chile of the type species, monkey-puzzle araucaria, *Araucaria araucana* (Molina) K. Koch.



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Araucaria angustifolia (Bert.) Kuntze
Leafy twig, 1 X; cone, cone-scale with seed,
and male cone (lower left), 1 X (Barrett).