

POND PINE

Pinus serotina Michx.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Marsh pine, Pocosin pine.

FORM: Usually 40-50 feet, occasionally 70-80 feet high, trunk short, generally not more than 2 feet in diameter; stout, often contorted branches, more or less pendulous at the extremities, forming an open round-topped head.

BAK: On the mature trunk 1/2-3/4 inch, thick, dark red-brown, irregularly divided by narrow, shallow fissures into small plates, separating into thin closely appressed scales.

TWIGS Slender, at first dark green, become dark orange color their first winter, finally dark brown or nearly black.

LEAVES: In clusters of 3, occasionally 4, flexuose, dark yellow-green, 6-8 inches long, deciduous their third or fourth year.

FLOWERS: Male flowers in crowded spikes, dark orange color; female clustered or in pairs on stout stems.

FRUIT: Subglobose to ovoid, full and rounded or pointed at the apex, sessile or on short stalks, 2-2 1/2 inches long; scales nearly flat, armed with slender, incurved, mostly deciduous prickles; cones often remain closed 1 to 2 years before opening; seeds nearly triangular, 1/8 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Broadly ovate, gradually tapering and acute at the apex, 1/3-1/2 inch long; scales ovate, acute, pale chestnut-brown, fimbriate on the margins.

WOOD: Very resinous, heavy, soft, brittle, coarse-grained, dark orange color; thick pale yellow sapwood.

USES: Lumber, pulp.

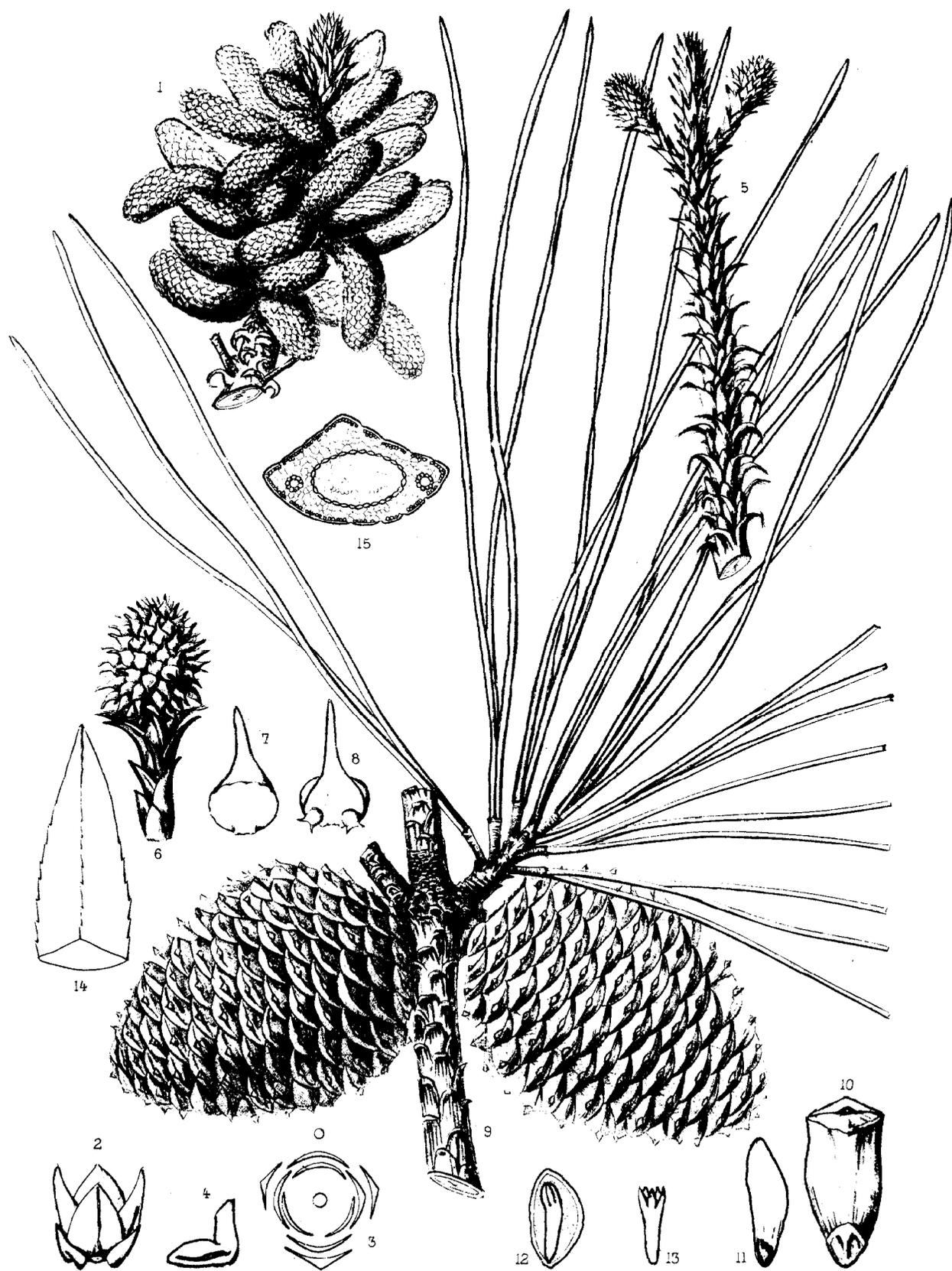
HABITAT: Low flats, sandy or peaty swamps.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Needles flexuose, 6-8 inches long; cones subglobose or ovoid, rounded or pointed at apex.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Chilton, Autauga, Dale, Houston, .Covington, and Geneva Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. An end of a branch with staminate flowers | 8. A scale of a pistillate flower, upper side, with its ovules |
| 2. An involucre of a staminate flower | 9. A fruiting branch |
| 3. Diagram of the involucre of the staminate, flower | 10. A cone scale, lower side |
| 4. An anther, side view | 11. A seed with its wing |
| 5. An end of a branch with pistillate flowers | 12. Vertical section of a seed |
| 6. A pistillate flower | 13. An embryo |
| 7. A scale of a pistillate flower | 14. Tip of a leaf |
| | 15. Cross section of a leaf |



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