



Ainu People and Todo Fir

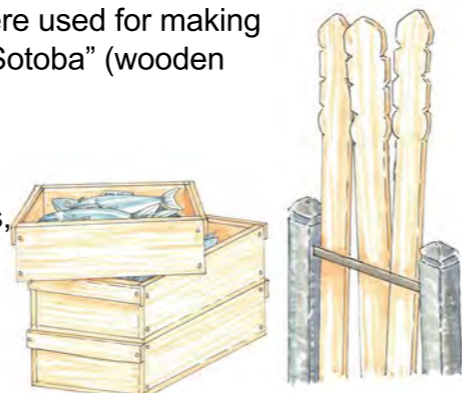
It is said that the Japanese name of Todo fir, "Todo-matsu" originated from Ainu term "To-To-Ropp" meaning Siberian Dwarf Pine (*Pinus pumila*) (although the correct Ainu pronunciation sounds "Hu-Ppu").

It is also said that Ainu people used branches of Todo fir to make the roof of a hunting cabin for winter hunting.



Todo Fir in People's Living

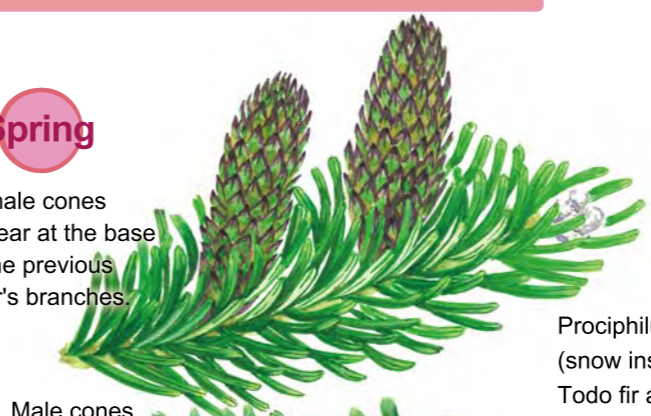
Since Todo fir trees are white, light, soft, and easy to process with straight grain pattern, they have been used as materials such as post and boards for house building as well as civil engineering materials. Also, in old days, they were used for making fish boxes, coffins, and "Sotoba" (wooden memorial stupas). In modern days, it is expected to use Todo fir for middle-high-rise buildings, thanks to the advancement in wood processing technology including the CLT method.



Observation Points in Each Season

Spring

Female cones appear at the base of the previous year's branches.



Male cones

Summer

Pollinated female cones mature and turn dark purple. The head of needles divided into two, with prominent two white stomatal bands



Fall

Fully matured pine cones disperse seeds and eventually only the core remains.



Seeds

Winter



Winter buds are covered with pine resin.

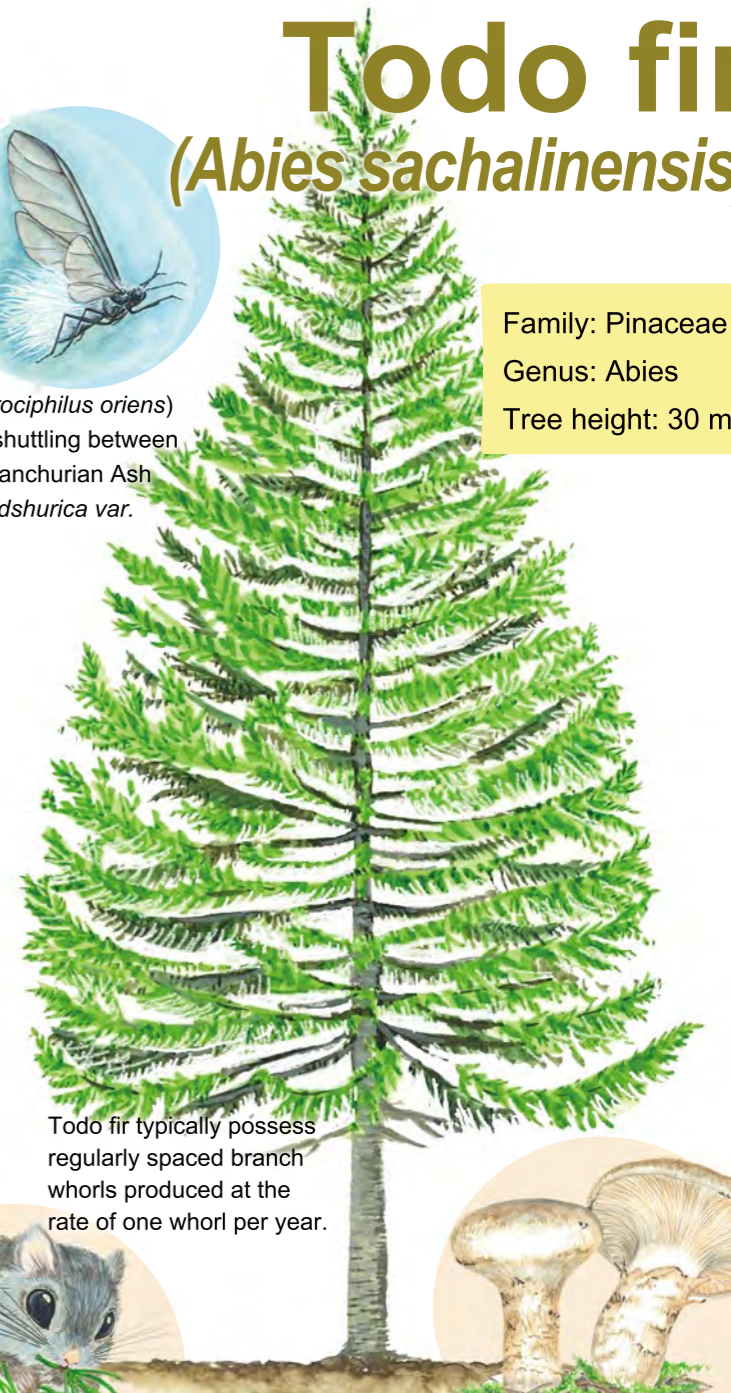
The tree bark bears many resin pockets filled with pine resin.

Todo fir (*Abies sachalinensis*)



Prociphilus (*Prociphilus oriens*) (snow insect) shuttling between Todo fir and Manchurian Ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica* var. *japonica*)

Family: Pinaceae
Genus: Abies
Tree height: 30 m



Todo fir typically possess regularly spaced branch whorls produced at the rate of one whorl per year.



Siberian Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys volans orii*) eating needles of Todo fir



Momitake mushroom (*Catathelasma ventricosum*) cohabiting with Todo fir

Todo fir account for the largest amount of timber in Hokkaido. Todo fir is resistant to cold and shade. However, Todo fir grows slowly and it takes 4 years to obtain seedlings. Since Todo fir exhibits upward branches, let's remember the name of this tree as "Grow, grow to reach (TO-DO-ke in Japanese) the sky." Since the trunk of Todo fir retain a large amount of water, "frost cracks" may happen in an especially cold winter day, in which the water inside the tree freeze to break the trunk.

