Prumnopitys standleyi (Buchholz & Gray) de Laub.

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PODOCARPACEAE (CIPRECILLO FAMILY)

Podocarpus standlley, Podocarpus montanus

Ciprecillo, cobola, lorito (Rojas and others 1992a)

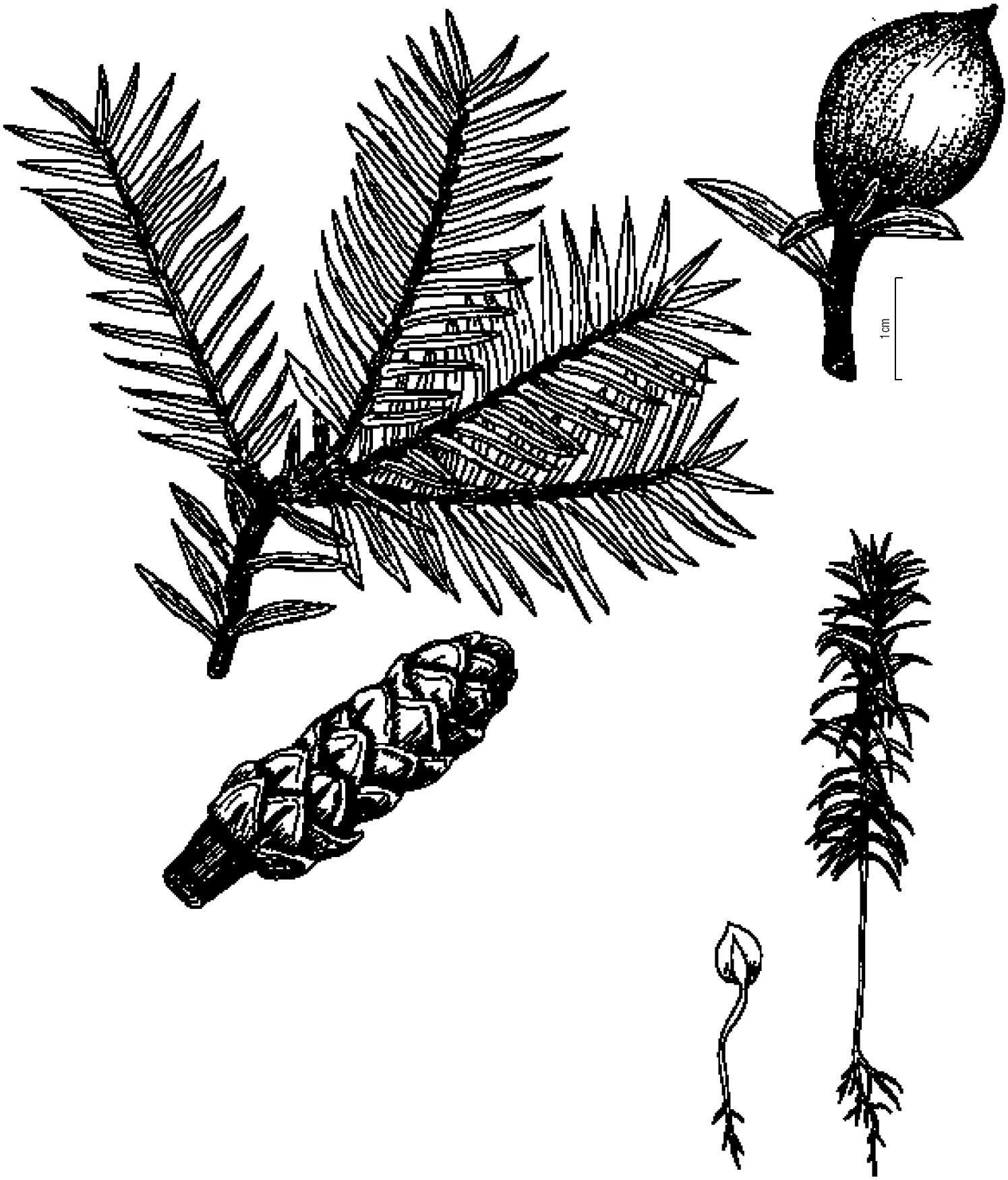
Prumnopitys standleyi grows naturally from Costa Rica to Bolivia; however, this species is taxonomically confused with species of the genus *Podocarpus* (from South America). It is a climax forest species that grows in wet zones at moderate to high elevations (Carpio 1992).

Prumnopitys standleyi is a tall, slow-growing tree that reaches 20 m in height and 75 to 150 cm d.b.h. The trees vary in shape and trunk form. The species grows at 2000 to 3200 m on very wet, low-mountainous grounds, on pluvious montane, and especially on very wet montane. It grows where annual precipitation is 2000 to 4000 mm and temperatures range from 3 to 25 °C (Budowski 1954). It is resistant to strong winds (Rojas and others 1992a).

With a specific gravity of 0.555, the wood of *P. standleyi* is considered heavy. It dries fast without defects. Easy to dry and preserve, the wood's texture is uniform and fine (Carpio 1992, Standley 1938). The wood is used in construction and in pulp for paper and for boxes, floors, indoor decorations, veneer, farming tools, fenceposts, firewood, coal, and furniture (Budowski 1954, Carpio 1992, Rojas and others 1992a).

As a rare species (0.1 to 1 per ha) (Slooten 1969), *P. standleyi* regenerates poorly. In males, some strobili are produced in the branch terminals; in females, they are produced in the axial leaves. The male structure measures about 0.97 cm long by 0.23 cm wide. These structures have numerous polliniferous sacks located in the strobila scales, producing 50 or more in only one branch. In the female strobili, two bracts are held by a peduncle that merges and folds the egg cell on the top of a receptacle. The seed is simple; it is covered by a scale and by an ovulary scale. Seeds are 0.9 cm long and 0.7 cm wide (Arnáez and Moreira 1992, Rojas and others 1992a).

Preliminary observations reveal that seeds ripen in 5 months. Seeds are ready for harvest in April. Seeds are soaked in water at 22 °C for 24 hours. Germination is epigeal. The seedlings show numerous nodules in their roots.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