

## Botanical Word for June 2022: Strobilus [STROH-bill-luss]

~ Sue van Millingen

This time of year, plants in the Pinaceae (Pine) Family are busy producing many **strobili**.

A **strobilus** (sing.; pl. *strobili*) is a cone-like cluster of **sporophylls** (sporangium-bearing leaves) on an axis.

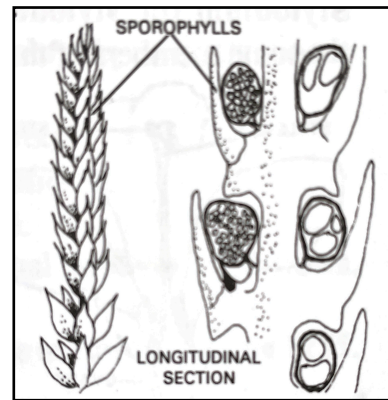
In Pines, both female and male strobili exist on the same tree. Female strobili appears on the axis eventually grow into pine cones.

The Male strobilus is composed of many **microsporophylls**, which bear microsporangia containing microspores, which go on to develop into pollen. The male strobili wither after releasing pollen.



Female strobili on *Picea pungens*

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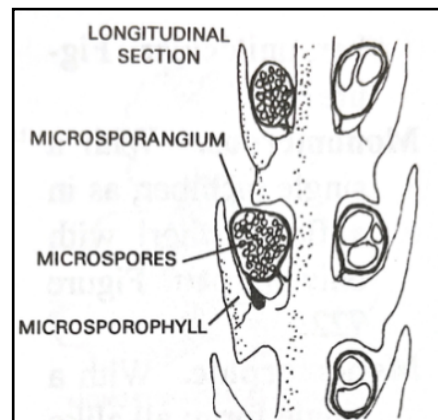


Sporophylls<sup>1</sup>



Male strobili on *Picea pungens*

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Microsporophyll<sup>2</sup>

1) Harris, G. James, Woolf Harris, Melina, 2021, *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 115

2) Harris, G. James, Woolf Harris, Melina, 2021, *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 69