

# SLASH PINE

## *Pinus elliottii* Engelm.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Swamp pine, Pitch pine, Southern pine, Spruce pine, Meadow pine.

FORM: Often 100 feet high, tall tapering trunk 2-3 feet in diameter, with heavy horizontal branches forming a round-topped head.

BARK: 3/4-1 1/2 inch thick, reddish, deeply grooved in mature trees, separating into large thin scales.

TWIGS: Stout, at first orange-colored, ultimately dark.

LEAVES: Densely crowded on the branches in clusters of twos and threes, stout, dark green, 8-12 inches long, usually falling off at the end of the second year.

FLOWERS: Flowers in January and February before appearance of the new leaves; male in short crowded clusters, dark purple; female, lateral on long peduncles, pink.

FRUIT: Ovoid or ovoid-conic, 2-6 inches long, leathery brown in color, with very short stem, cone scales thin with incurved or recurved prickle; seed almost triangular, 1 1/16-1 1/4 inch long, the wings 3/4-1 inch by 1/4 inch.

WINTER BUDS: Smooth, cylindrical, narrowed at apex.

WOOD: Heavy, very hard, strong, coarse-grained, rich orange in color, durable, sapwood almost white.

USES: Pulp, poles, piling, crossties, lumber, crates, boxes, turpentine. Historical uses: mine props.

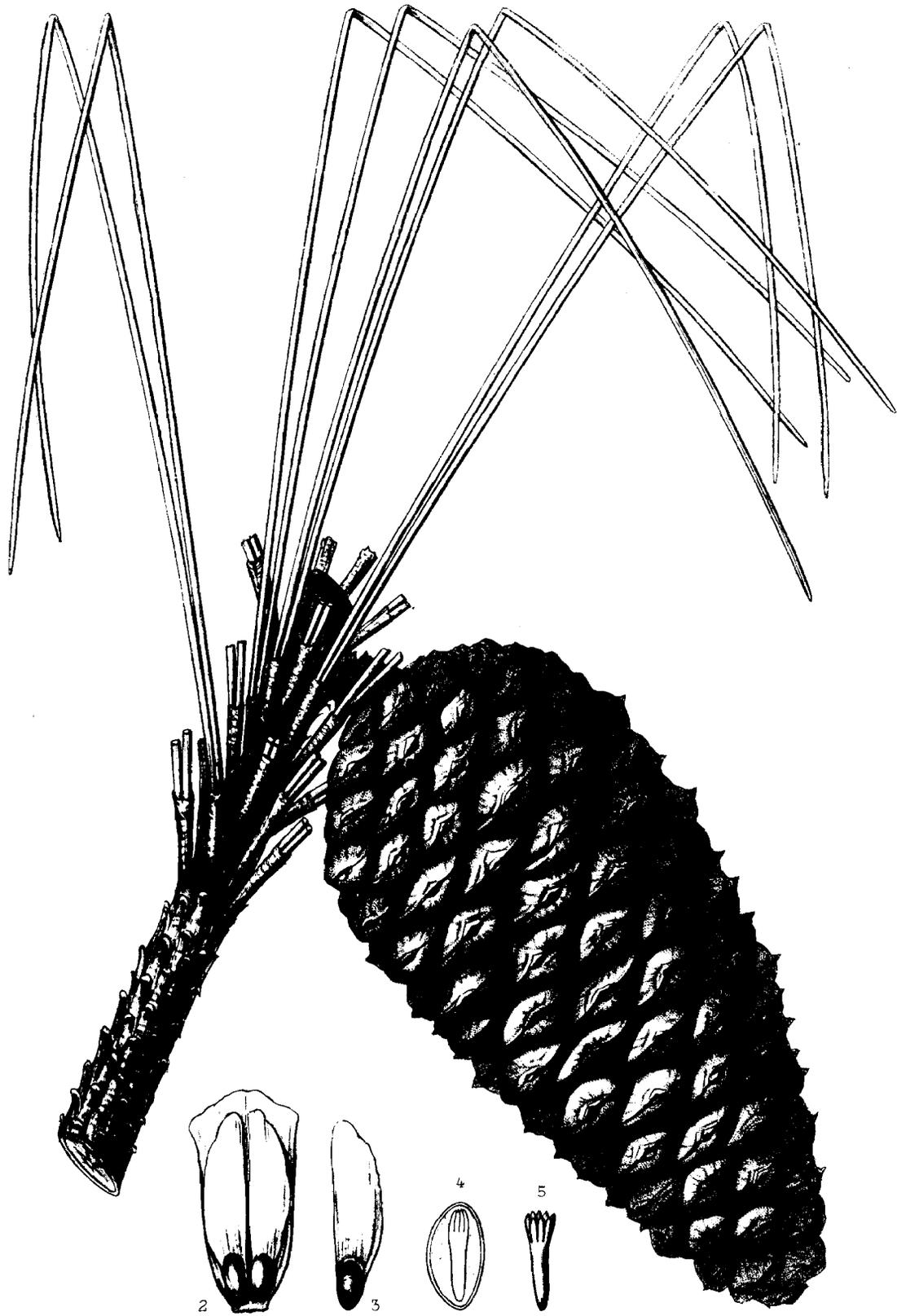
HABITAT: Low moist ground, hummocks in swamps, and places where water table is within a few feet of the surface of the ground, often on adjoining drier sites.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves in twos and threes, longer than any southern pine except *Pinus strobus* pine; the staminate flowers appear in January and February; prefers low, moist ground.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Southward from Washington, Monroe, Conecuh, Butler, Coffee, and Dale Counties.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

1. A fruiting branch
2. A cone scale, upper side with its seeds
3. A seed
4. Vertical section of a seed
5. An embryo



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