Trees evergreen, monoecious; branches short, spreading. Leaves dimorphic: scalelike leaves scattered on branchlets or clustered at apex of branchlets, small; connate leaves formed by the complete fusion of two leaves, arising from the axils of scalelike leaves and spreading radially at apex of branchlets, linear, flat, leathery, with a deep furrow both adaxially and abaxially. Pollen cones clustered at apex of branches; microsporophylls numerous, spirally arranged. Seed cones ripening in 2nd year, terminal, shortly pedunculate, with numerous, spirally arranged cone scales; bracts nearly enclosed by cone scales. Seeds 5–9 per scale, ovoid, with a narrow wing. Cotyledons 2. 2n = 20.

One genus and one species: Japan; introduced in China.


Trees to 40 m tall; trunk to 3 m d.b.h.; branches ± whorled, spreading at ca. 90° to trunk. Scalelike leaves triangular, 3–6 mm; connate leaves linear, 8–12 × 2.5–3 mm, with 2 white stomatal bands along middle furrow abaxially. Pollen cones ovoid, ca. 1.2 cm, shortly stipitate. Seed cones narrowly ovoid, 8–12 × ca. 2.5 cm; cone scales broadly cuneate or fan-shaped, margin thin, reflexed, apex broadly rounded; bracts with triangular, recurved, free apex. Seeds oblong or elliptic, flat, 8–12 × ca. 8 mm.

Cultivated as an ornamental and for timber: Hubei, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Zhejiang [native to Japan].